

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Sackcloth...

David Henson reveals why BBC people are wringing their hands.

And ashes...
Bernard Levin might not be addicted to tobacco, but he would defend to the death people's right to smoke.Through a glass...
The Books Page features a brief history and the biography of the Catholic priest who was the model for Dorian Gray.Darkly
The subject of the Times Profile is Roald Dahl, writer of charming children's fantasies and ghoulish tales for grown-ups.**Pension rise plan may cost £350m**

The Treasury is planning to ask about 2.5 million teachers, council and health service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of their salary. It is estimated that it would cost employees up to £350m. Page 2

Early holiday for Commons

The Government took the unusual step of announcing months in advance that the Commons will rise for Easter in the week ending April 13. Easter is late next year.

Spain unhappy

Madrid's growing exasperation with Paris over both Basque refugees and EEC entry provided a difficult backdrop to talks between President Mitterrand and Senor Gonzalez. Page 8

NGA action

Lawyers representing the National Graphical Association and High Court sequestrators have met in an attempt to resolve a dispute over the "export" of union funds to Dublin.



£7.6m arts aid
A £7.6m package to aid the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House and several regional opera companies has been announced

Page 2

Moors killer ill

Ian Brady, serving a life sentence in Dartmoor prison, Leicestershire, for the Moors murders, has been admitted to the prison hospital. His weight has dropped from 13st to 7st 12lb.

Thatcher wish

Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa of Calcutta if there was a chance to be anyone else, she revealed on television

Leader page 13
Letters: On local government, from Mr G. Alderman and others, Turkey, from Mrs D. Spearman, and Dr D. Seddon
Leading articles: Rate Bill; PLO; Jamaican election
Features, pages 10-12

A trade union call for a quid pro quo: the Japanese voters blow to closer links with the West; who's soft on the Provo now? Spectrum: The merchandising of Flora Thompson. Wednesday Page: dealing with obscene phone calls; Joanna Lumley's Diary. Obituary, page 14

Bill Brandt, Grigori Alexandrov

Rate-capping Bill faces strongest test in the Lords

By Julian Haviland and Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided that he would have to resign if Parliament fails to enact the Rates Bill published yesterday.

But in private, as in public, he has expressed no doubt that the Bill, which will limit the power of local authorities to raise rates, will become law without major changes. His talk of resigning is a mark of apparent confidence.

At the same time, there have been new signs that Mr Jenkin is concerned at the strength of opposition being assembled against the Bill in the House of Lords.

In discussions with peers he has suggested that the Bill raises constitutional questions for them, since its provisions are concerned with taxation and expenditure and since it was promised in a manifesto endorsed by the electorate.

The second point is one on which members of the unelected House are sensitive. But the first carries an implied threat which Conservative peers yesterday did not like, and which they consider deeply.

Under the Parliament Act, 1911, the House of Lords has no power to amend a money Bill, dealing with such matters as taxation and money supply.

But the definition of a money Bill under the Act excludes, according to Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, "taxation, money or loan raised by local authorities for local purposes".

There is no doubt that the Bill will be strongly resisted by

many Conservative, as well as Opposition and cross-bench peers, who will be within their constitutional rights.

The Bill, which received its first Commons reading yesterday, showed that the Government has rejected almost all criticism from its own supporters, who are resigning in protest.

But the Bill includes a reserve power to "cap" rates of all councils in England and Wales. Mr Jenkin, aware of strong Conservative opposition to the general proposal, insisted that its main purpose was to act as a deterrent - "to be used only if absolutely necessary."

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, described the Bill as "a much-needed restraint on the tiny minority of town and county halls which have for too long been spending beyond their means."

The Bill attracted little support elsewhere, despite the presence of powers to exempt hundreds of councils, most led by Conservatives.

Councils whose total spending is less than £10m a year will be exempt from selective "capping", and the Bill allows ministers to remove particular councils from the reserve general scheme.

The Bill also enables ministers to seek parliamentary powers to raise the £10m spending barrier below which councils cannot be earmarked for selective rate-capping. But the Association of District

Continued on back page, col 1

Porters about "capping" rates of councils which ignore government spending guidelines and issue soaring rate demands.

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£70m engine deal frozen by Leyland

Leyland Trucks has suspended a £35m investment programme at its Bathgate plant in Scotland.

The decision freezes the £70m deal with the Cummins Engine Company in the United States for a Bathgate-built engine due to go into production in 1985.

Leyland Trucks has suffered a substantial fall in foreign demand and is reviewing investment plans. The management say the company can no longer endure present trading losses. Increases in production or prices have been ruled out.

The Cummins deal, sealed 15 months ago, was described by the Leyland group chairman, Mr David Amess, as vital for the future of Bathgate.

Union leaders at the plant have requested a meeting with the management and with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to allay fears about the plant's future.

Judgment on title deferred

A retired army colonel will have to wait until early next year to learn whether or not he will succeed to the ancient Scottish baronetcy of Dunbar of Mochrum.

Yesterday Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms reserved his judgment after hearing two days of legal debate before the Lyon court in Edinburgh. Colonel William Dunbar, aged 90, of Herne Bay, Kent, is challenging the right of his cousin, Sir Jean Ivor Dunbar, a former American jockey, aged 65, of New York, to the title of 13th baronet.

Airline gifts cost £200,000

British Airways are spending £200,000 to give all of its passengers a special Christmas present this week.

Starting yesterday the airline was giving away Wedgewood plates and crystal tumblers to passengers at Heathrow airport. Children will receive records and tapes of their favourite music or stories. The airline carries 14,000 passengers a day through Heathrow and the gifts will be presented to passengers until Friday.

Seizure of sex dolls backed

Judge Anwyl-Davies, in the second part of his judgment at Southwark Crown Court, London, said yesterday that customs officers were right to seize 500 blow-up sex dolls when they arrived at Heathrow airport from West Germany in October last year.

Last week he ruled that the dolls, which he described as hideously offensive, were obscene and indecent. They were imported by Conegate Ltd, now trading as Quietly Ltd, which has a nationwide sex shop chain.

£200,000 pay for dentists'

Some British dentists are earning between £100,000 and £200,000 by carrying out non-essential work, according to Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield.

"It is only a few, from what I am told, probably between 20 and 50, but it is a disgraceful situation," he said.

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Public service workers may pay more to pension plans

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Treasury is to ask 2.5 million teachers, local government and National Health Service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of pay.

It is estimated that this could cost employees £350m.

Official sources said ministers had decided that all public sector pensions contributions should be at "a realistic level".

And Whitehall now accepted that this is the 7.9 per cent notional contribution made by the 657,000 members of the inflation-proof Civil Service scheme.

The idea has been informally floated to Civil Service union leaders that the notional 7.9 per cent contribution should be turned into an actual contribution - at no cost to either side.

Meanwhile, plans are being laid to increase the employee contributions of the 1,060,000 local government pension scheme members, the 613,000 teachers' scheme members, and the 820,000 members of the health service pension scheme.

Manual employees in the health service and local government now contribute 5 per cent of pay, while non-manuals and teachers contribute 6 per cent of pay.

Miners to continue work ban

Miners' leaders voted yesterday to withdraw from industry's top-level consultative machinery and to continue their national overtime ban over pay and pit closures into the new year.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the ban, now in its eighth week, had cost 2.4 million tonnes in lost production.

The situation is likely to worsen next month.

Any pay negotiations on the 5.2 per cent offer seem further away than ever after the union executive's decision to leave the five-year-old Joint Policy Advisory Committee, the only forum in which the coal board believes an acceptable approach to the Government could be fashioned.

The three mining unions and the board are due to meet next month to draw up an ambitious extension of the industry's tripartite Plan for Coal, and those talks are likely to go ahead. But the NUM says that it will not join any approach to the Secretary of State for Energy, unless it is on a policy of "pit closures and an end to manpower reductions".

The coal board says that unless normal overtime is permitted over the 10-day Christmas holiday, up to 40 collieries could be at risk from flooding or spontaneous combustion. But Mr Scargill said: "We shall be doing no more than what has been done already - that is seeking sensible talks."

DPP to rule on Mitchell poll cash allegations

Allegations that Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, failed to declare all his general election expenses are to be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions; it was said in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Mitchell had gone to court to ask to be excused from any penalty for exceeding his expenses return by an admitted £261 - a sum which also took him over the allowed expenses limit.

But the move was opposed by Mr Paul Gennery, the unsuccessful SDP candidate, and Mr Mitchell agreed to withdraw the bulk of his application so that the allegation against him could be dealt with, along with others, by the DPP.

Mr Gennery was Mr Mitchell's election agent before he moved to the SDP.

£7.6m rescue for opera and RSC

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House and several regional opera companies are to be saved from their financial crises by a £7.6m rescue operation announced by Lord Gowrie, the Minister for the Arts, yesterday.

Lord Gowrie said that £2.8m would go to the Royal Opera House and the RSC on the recommendation of the Priestley Report, which concluded that the two companies were underfunded. A further £1.3m would be given to English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera and Opera North.

An additional £3.5m will be sought to wipe out all the accumulated deficits of the companies.

The announcement was part of Lord Gowrie's disclosure of the arts budget for 1984/85,

which totals £100m, compared with £92m this year. But £4.1m of the total will be earmarked for the use of the RSC and the opera companies, giving the Arts Council a real increase of 4.2 per cent in its grant raising it to £95.9m, compared with the 20 per cent it had requested.

The apportioning of the grant created resentment among regional theatres yesterday and received a lukewarm reception from the Arts Council.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, the council's chairman, welcomed the special grant for the RSC and opera companies but added: "I am, however, very concerned that the maintained grant for the rest of our arts needs will leave many difficult problems for other companies, though I recognise that the Government is tackling two of the big problems thoroughly."

The minister's announcement, made in a written House of Lords reply, was described as "an insult to regional theatres and the Arts Council" by Mr

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford.

"The Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company are palpably over-funded in comparison to regional theatre because there is disgraceful waste at both."

Mr Hedley criticized the salary of nearly £50,000 paid to the RSC's joint director, Mr Trevor Nunn, who is at present on unpaid sabbatical.

"My actors get £95 to £125 a week and I get nearly £200 a week. That's a good salary for me but I'm running an organization with more than £500,000 turnover."

Mr William Weston, administrator of the Leeds Playhouse, said: "This clearly isn't a substantial improvement in arts funding and it will inevitably lead to further gradual erosion in the regions."

Harrods car bomb policemen fight for their lives

By Michael Horsnell

The two policemen critically injured in the Harrods car bombing were fighting for their lives yesterday as more victims spoke of their ordeal.

PC John Gordon, aged 30, a dog handler who lost his right leg and fingers on his right hand, is in danger of losing his other leg. Westminster Hospital said. Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, remains critically ill with severe head injuries and burns.

PC Gordon successfully came through a two-hour operation yesterday. But afterwards, Mr Malcolm Lennox, the operation coordinator, said: "We are dreadfully concerned about his left leg. There is a possibility that he may lose it."

Surgeons were pleased with the way PC Gordon's wounds were healing, but his kidneys remained the main worry. Mr Lennox said: "He is on a haemo-dialysis machine and the major threat to his life is his kidney function."

Had PC Gordon not been at the peak of physical condition he would not have survived. He was aware he had lost a leg but did not know of the concern for his other leg.

Inquests on Sergeant Noel Lane and WPC Jane Arbuthnot, who died in the bombing, will be opened at Westminster Coroners' Court today. Their funerals will not be arranged until after the inquests.

At Harrods, Miss Arbuthnot's parents, accompanied by her two brothers and sister, walked silently past the place where she died. Mrs Susan Arbuthnot said: "I think Jane would have been pleased that we are here."

Mrs Arbuthnot and her husband, John, bought dark scarves and two black ties at the store before being driven home by Sergeant Michael Thwaite, from Chelsea police station.

Sinn Fein to fight any political ban

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Leaders of Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, would challenge any future ban on them by demonstrations and legal challenges.

If those failed the party would reconstitute under another name as it does not want to be driven underground. But its leaders are acutely aware of the propaganda value of any ban.

If the Government of the Irish Republic outlawed the party it would do so under the Offences Against the State Act, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years for belonging to a proscribed organization.

The party would reconstitute under another name as it does not want to be driven underground. But its leaders are acutely aware of the propaganda value of any ban.

If the party is aiming to supplant the Social Democratic and Labour Party as the voice of northern nationalism.

In the republic it believes that the deprivation and disillusion among young people is fertile ground for their political development.

In Northern Ireland the party has successfully used "community politics", operated through advice centres manned mostly by unemployed young people.

Candidates must support the armed struggle and canvas normally. Its general election manifesto demanded British withdrawal to be followed by radical left-wing policies favoured them by the Workers' Party.

Provisional Sinn Fein's membership is estimated at 2,000 in each part of Ireland. Support is strongest in urban areas of Northern Ireland and along the Republic's western seaboard.

In the republic the party has refused to register as a party to avoid tacitly recognizing a partitionist state - although in the 1973 local government elections it put up 106 candidates in the republic.

The party dates from 1970 when the republican movement split over whether to drop its policy of not recognizing parades in Belfast and Dublin.

Thirteen years later, it has adopted the radical left-wing policies favoured them by Official Sinn Fein now known as the Workers' Party.

The policy for a federal Ireland was rejected in 1981 in favour of a unitary state despite opposition from the leadership in the republic.

The party is governed by a 28-strong executive elected annually by secret ballot.

Politicians and civil servants in Northern Ireland believe that any proscription of Provisional Sinn Fein could be a fatal mistake because it would be used for international propaganda and probably aid recruitment.

Home players dominate Brighton chess

From Harry Golombok, Chess Correspondent, Brighton

With a strong entry comprising three grandmasters and two international masters, the Brighton Computer Games Ltd, international tournament looks like ending in a resounding success for the England players who at the end of round eight, occupied all the leading places.

Jailing the father, aged 30, Judge J. Blodell, QC, said: "You repeatedly struck that three-month-old baby across the face with such horrifying violence that it has caused him lasting injuries that will be with him until the day he dies."

Oversize selling prices

London Dec 26: Belgrave F 5s. Canfield F 5s. Carlton F 5s. Denmark Dr 7.60. Finland Mack 6.00.

Greece Dr 10.2. Holland Mack 6.00. Luxembourg Dr 3.50. Norway Nr 7.80. Poland F 12. Portugal Dr 12. Sweden Dr 8.00. Switzerland Dr 8.00. Sweden Dr 0.70. USA \$1.40. Yugoslavia Dr 100.

The results in round eight on Monday were: Plaskett 1/2, Hodgson 1/2, Mednis 1, Murci 0, Burger 0, Watson 1, Short 1, Ivanov 0, Westerinen 1/2, Nunn 1/2.

In the ninth and last round yesterday, Short, who has black against Watson, needs to win

in order to gain the grandmaster norm and with it the title.

Harrods car bomb

policemen

fight for their lives

who was with Miss Arbuthnot when the bomb went off.

PC Gordon's wife Sheila, aged 34, who is due to give birth to the couple's second child in February, has kept a bedside vigil at the hospital since Saturday's bombing. He joined the Metropolitan Police eight years ago and served with the Special Patrol Group before becoming a dog handler last year.

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Two of the three patients still detained at St Stephen's Hospital in Fulham, west London, paid tribute to the care they have received at the hospital, where dozens of off-duty staff came in on Saturday without being asked.

Mr Pradip Khaifau, aged 42, a solicitor from Calcutta on a week's business trip with his brother, and Mr Ken Ayres, aged 53, a chauffeur who was driving them in London, spoke of their ordeal.

The third victim still being treated at St Stephen's, Mrs Diane Michael, was said to be in a stable condition yesterday.

A man charged with making a hoax bomb call two days after the Harrods explosion was remanded in custody by Old Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday. Samuda, aged 21, is accused of claiming that there was a bomb in Bond Street, Mayfair.

Mr Samuda, of Mandeville Street, Hackney, east London, was remanded until December 29.

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One in four men admits driving above the drink limit after parties

By Kenneth Gosling

A pre-Christmas survey of almost 1,000 drivers has shown that nearly a quarter of the men questioned would drive home from a party knowing they were over the alcohol limit. And seven in 10 admit having driven after drinking more than two pints of beer.

This would be over the limit for most, but three out of five believe their driving would not be affected, according to a Gallup poll carried out for the Legal and General insurance company.

One in five male drivers admitted having driven after drinking at least six pints.

Mr Brian Palmer, a Legal and General director, said the figures told only part of the story. "If this is what people willingly own up to, we can only shudder at what the full picture might be."

"When a jumbo jet crashes the whole world reads about it. Each year the number of people killed or injured in drink-driving accidents in Britain is equivalent to 77 jumbo jet disasters," Mr Palmer said.

One in 10 of all road accidents involves a drunk driver and the Government is spending £860,000 on a Christmas campaign.

Campaigns are ignored by more than 40 per cent of drivers, according to the survey. And even where a partner or a

friend has been chosen to drive home from a party, one in seven is likely to be near or over the limit.

Drivers also ignore the threat to their finances and their jobs if they have their licences suspended for at least a year. One estimate yesterday was that a driver in this position could have to pay between £10,000 and £12,000 to replace his normally car-borne activities, including his job.

Drivers also face a doubling of their premiums and a cut in cover from comprehensive to third party, especially if they have offended more than once.

Some companies protect valued members of staff by taking out cover with the St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which gives a benefit of £3,000 for a three-star plan on a premium of £64 a year and £5,500 for a five-star policy which costs £175.

"We don't pick up the heavy drinkers," Mr Martin O'Neill, the company's managing director said. "We will not pay out if a motorist is over double the legal maximum. We don't want to be seen as a drunkards' charter."

"We normally acquire people in the professions who know they are at risk if they have one or two drinks. And it's a fallacy that it is just at this point in the year. During the summer is

when people are more relaxed and go out for a pint or two."

A copy of the Gallup poll, conducted nationally between December 7 and 12 among a representative sample, almost equally divided between the sexes, of 962 adults, has been sent to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport.

Women were shown to be slightly more nervous when driving at public house closing times and a little more inclined than men to view the present penalties as not strict enough.

No women admitted having driven after drinking six or more pints of beer. But two per cent had, they said, taken between five and five-and-a-half pints.

● In its annual report the London Council on Alcoholism says it had more than 800 calls last year, 40 per cent from problem drinkers themselves. The total figure was 10 per cent up on last year, which had shown a rise of 20 per cent on the year before.

Among referrals the proportion of women was higher than that of men, although new clients referred by someone else showed a much higher proportion of men.

The age range is expanding, the report says, to include those under 20 and over 60.

Divorced wives of clergy 'ostracized'

By David Cross

Many divorced wives of clergy still feel shabbily treated by the Church of England, in spite of official concern about their plight, according to a report published today.

The report, *Divorced Clergy Wives - One Year On*, has been written by Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Mr Neil McIlwraith as a sequel to one published a year ago, *Walking on the Other Side*.

The results of the first report, which investigated 24 cases, showed that, with few exceptions, the church's embarrassment over the break-up of clerical marriages led to many wives feeling totally rejected by the authorities. Typical of the reactions was one woman who wrote: "It's a much bigger issue than they [the church] will admit. It embarrasses them and they try to sweep it under the carpet."

After the first report the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said that he was concerned about the problem's scale and anxious for church authorities to respond constructively.

A second survey was commissioned by Mr Field to provide additional data for a working group set up by the House of Bishops. The main point was to discover whether the church's attitude in each diocese reflected the change and the goodwill expressed by senior officials.

But, the report says, many former clergy wives, who believe the church treated them badly in the past, said that there had been no change since the first survey.

Asked whether any contact had been made by the church during the past year to inquire about their circumstances, 20 of the 49 wives who agreed to be interviewed said "Yes". Four-

Hope denies taking fee for charity golf

Bob Hope, the comedian, has denied taking fees to appear at the charity golf tournament which bears his name.

Organizers of the tournament, which have gone into liquidation, had said Mr Hope was paid £88,000 in fees and £53,000 in expenses for the Bob Hope British Golf Classic.

Yesterday, however, Mr Hope said in a BBC radio interview: "I was never paid any money. The money that I was paid for, of course, went for the production and the whole thing. The money is for the production of the show, and the writers, and the expense - that's all."

"When you're bringing stars over and taking care of them and their fares, it's a hell of a lot of expense there."

Chief Inspector Brian Corbett, who was in charge at Hampton garage, said a sergeant told him that Miss de Launay and Mr Attfield were being seen together off duty. Rumours about their relationship were, he said, "affecting morale" at the garage and there was concern it could have repercussions on Mr Attfield's home life.

"We are not in the business of spying on officers in their private lives," Mr Corbett said. The hearing continues today.



PC Trevor Attfield and his former car patrol partner WPC Wendy de Launay in London yesterday.

Gordon Stratton, aged 24, who had been drinking before he knocked down the boy, Timothy Proctor, was fined and banned in 1979 for driving with excess alcohol. He was fined and banned again last September for a similar offence, committed when he was on bail awaiting trial for the charge concerning Timothy Proctor of Brancote Avenue, Mitcham.

After the hearing, at the Central Criminal Court, the boy's father, Mr Bernard Proctor, described the nine-

Horse stunt fall removed from new Bond film

The RSPCA has persuaded Warner Brothers, the makers of the new James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*, to cut one of the most dramatic scenes, showing a horse plunging 40 feet into the sea and hitting the water on its back.

The RSPCA worked closely with the Board of British Film Censors to have the scene cut for British showing.

Its chief veterinary officer, Mr David Wilkins, said yesterday: "I was shocked when I saw that scene of the stunt. The horse was put in a wooden box on top of a scaffolding with a man and women stunt team. The box was tilted, and all three fell out."

"Warner Brothers say it was examined by a vet, who diagnosed no physical injury.

Mr Proctor said he would see his MP and write to the Home Secretary about the case. "This smacks of cut-price justice because a charge of manslaughter was dropped," he said.

In court, Sir James Miskin, the Recorder of London, was told that Stratton, raised his car through traffic lights at Mitcham, south London, as they were changing to red and struck the boy.

Mr Bruce Houlder, for the prosecution, said that Stratton, pursued by a tanker driver who had seen the incident, drove on at high speed, swerving violent-



Pilgrim's progress: Mgr James Horan, a master of politics. (Photograph: Terry Fincher).

Knock airport

A priest's dream or folly

By Richard Ford

The view from the 6,000ft runway of Ireland's proposed fourth international airport, perched 650ft above the sea on a boggy plateau, is awe-inspiring. When it is not shrouded in mist rising from the surrounding bog there are spectacular views of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain on whose 2,510ft summit St Patrick allegedly spent the 40 days of Lent in the year 441.

To the south-east is the Marian Shrine at Knock, co Mayo, where in 1879 it is claimed there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

But the second miracle of Knock will need more than divine intervention if it is ever to be completed to help pilgrims on their faithful progress to the shrine.

Viewed from Dublin the airport is "Knock nonsense".

Dr Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government of Fine Gael and Labour will not spend the further £25m (Irish) needed to provide runway lighting, security, air traffic control, and a terminal building for the Connacht Regional Airport.

That looks unlikely as even if it were completed Knock is thought by Aer Rianta, the republic's three other international airports, to be an uneconomic proposition.

Instead the project, hailed as Mgr Horan's finest achievement, will be forever postponed as a typical Irish yarn and a reminder of recent political instability where governments are in and out of office at the speed of a revolving door.

Mgr Horan, whose private company put up only £1100 for the project has proved himself a master at politics winning a promise from Mr Charles Haughey, when he was Prime Minister, to support the plan.

Then with every vote and seat counting he persuaded successive governments to continue

with the project that was being dismissed privately as "sheer lunacy".

But with political stability, Dr Fitzgerald has decided no more money should be spent. However, with another poll of Knock's priest may still get his money from public funds to a project that has swallowed £19m of government cash.

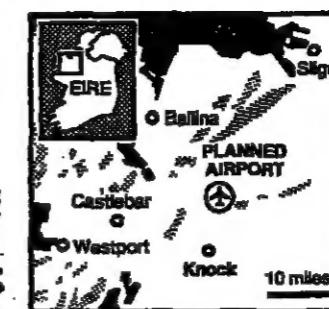
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landing pilgrims on their way to Knock. He dreamed of a traditional Irish airport with peat fires in the terminal lounges. His plan allowed for only nine full-time staff assisted by part-time workers supplementing their meagre farm incomes.

Instead of tow trucks to pull the aircraft from the apron to the runway, he had the original concept of letting farmers use their tractors to do the job and hoped that the spin-off would provide industry for the area and make the airport a tourist attraction in its own right because of its beautiful position.

Politicians in the republic will be relieved that Mgr Horan has no further grandiose ideas which might involve public money. He is now to concentrate on something less costly: preparing his own soul before death.

Six jailed for huge bullion tax fraud

A former bank robber, Ronald Dark, and Old Harrovian Spencer Eade, had one thing in common: a taste for wealth. It led them to join a gang of gold swindlers who made a profit of at least £6m from a value-added tax fraud.

At the Central Criminal Court yesterday they and four others were jailed and fined. Customs officers believe that other members of the gang are living abroad "in style".

Judge Sutcliffe had postponed sentencing the group for two weeks so that the Customs and Excise could investigate where the proceeds of the fraud were.

A substantial amount is now understood to have been traced, although nearly £2m was mysteriously withdrawn from the Crédit Suisse bank in Switzerland.

Eade, a former Ministry of Defence information officer and an arms exporter, used his company to import gold ingots from Switzerland, the court was told.

With his legitimate firm, Scan Defence International, he could defer paying VAT on the gold for three months. It was that which allowed the swindle to operate.

In three months the group traded in £40m worth of bullion. It was sold to dealers who were charged 15 per cent VAT which was then pocketed by the group.

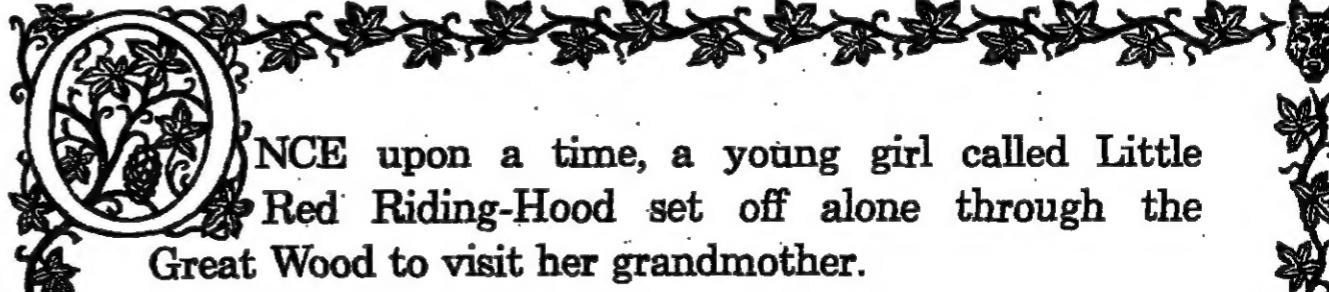
Eade, described as an intelligent young man, Judge Sutcliffe was jailed for a total of three and a half years and fined £90,000 with nine months to pay. Eade of Delyn, Portslade, East Sussex, had denied the fraud.

Dark of Preston Road, Wembley, north-west London, who was released from prison in 1979, admitted his part as a "front man" for the group. He was jailed for 12 months and fined £3,000 with six months to pay.

Lee Berry, aged 47, a company director, the Houseboat, Treg Island, Hampton, south-west London, his wife Freda, aged 44; Christopher Michel, aged 43, a public relations consultant, of Greenstead House, Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex; and Terence Ward, aged 42, a salesman, of Crawford Street, central London, had all denied their part in the fraud.

Berry, also described as a ringleader, was jailed for five and a half years and fined £120,000. His wife, who acted as a bookkeeper in the firm, was jailed for two years with one year suspended.

Michel was jailed for four years and fined £100,000 and Ward was jailed for 18 months. Criminal bankruptcy orders were made against all defendants except Dark and Ward.



NCE upon a time, a young girl called Little Red Riding Hood set off alone through the Great Wood to visit her grandmother.

Being a kindly girl, she took along with her a basket full of good things including a bottle of Croft Particular, a light, crisp sherry that was the old lady's special favourite.

After walking for some while, she reached her grandmother's cottage in the middle of the wood, and soon sensed that something was wrong.

"Oh, Grandma!", she cried. "What big eyes you have!" "All the better to see you with", replied the Wolf, who wasn't actually looking at Little Red Riding Hood, but at the bottle of Croft Particular in her basket.

"What a big nose you have!", she cried. "All the better to smell you with", said the Wolf, though he had just poured himself a glass of the Particular, and was at that moment savouring its delicate bouquet.

"And what a big mouth you have!", cried Red Riding-Hood. "All the better for drinking with", said the Wolf, taking an appreciative slurp and licking his lips.

"Mmm... I do enjoy a glass of good sherry before a meal!"



SLIGHTLY LIGHTER, SLIGHTLY LESS TRADITIONAL.
TO BE ENJOYED SLIGHTLY MORE OFTEN.

PARLIAMENT December 20 1983

Minister declines to intervene in Scott Lithgow

SHIPBUILDING

The record of the British Shipbuilding yard of Scott Lithgow on keeping to budget and to time was abysmal, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) had asked: Is she aware of the impending industrial disaster and human tragedy in the West of Scotland with the possible closure of the Scott Lithgow yard? Would she have negotiations to see whether that contract can be renegotiated; otherwise there will be a tremendous disaster for the West of Scotland, and in the light of the money spent on nuclear weapons it would be a drop in the ocean to save those jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: Competition for both ships and oil rigs is very great and the only conditions to have employment is by keeping customers. That means building ships and oil rigs to budget and on time. We very much regret the record of that particular yard in that respect is abysmal.

There are two other things in that yard, one is a ship for the MOD and the other is an oil rig and British Shipbuilders will be considering how best to continue to build these in view of the difficulties they face in any negotiations they may be able to have.

Later, Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said in a statement: In December 1981 Scott Lithgow contracted with Britoil to produce a semi-submersible drilling rig. The contract value was £88.6m and the contractual delivery date was April 1984. Construction began in February 1982.

By March 1983, British Shipbuilders had provided for losses of £3.8m on the rig. The then chairman, Sir Robert Atkinson, warned that performance and losses at Scott Lithgow were unacceptable.

On October 31 1983, Britoil was sufficiently concerned about progress on the contract to issue through its agents a notice requiring Scott Lithgow to renegotiate within 30 days that the rig could be completed by February 1985.

Scott Lithgow responded to Britoil by arguing that despite the undoubted slippage on the contract, hitherto completion would be possible within the terms of the contract.

However, on 19 December a notice of cancellation was served on behalf of Britoil on the basis that Scott Lithgow had not demon-



McCarthy: Cannot pull plug

strated that the rig could be delivered by February 1983.

BS have responded to the cancellation notice by disputing its validity and I understand that they have now instituted legal proceedings.

While BS and Britoil are considering the next step in this negotiation, all work on the rig will be stopped. BS are instructing suppliers to suspend work until the chairman of BS himself has departed for a three week holiday abroad.

The remainder of the workforce – approximately 2,250 men – are employed on two other contracts: one for BP and one for the Ministry of Defence. It is BS's intention that these contracts will continue.

Unemployment in this area is already high and a further increase in the scale indicated by the cancellation of this order would be a matter of deep concern to the Government. The Secretary of State for Scotland has this morning met the Scottish TUC and told them that he would of course seek to do all he can to alleviate the very real distress that would be caused in the local community.

However, the offshore industry is highly specialised and customers insist upon contractors – including management and workforce delivery on quality, price and time. Regrettably Scott Lithgow so far appears to have been unable to satisfy Britoil that it can fulfil its obligations on this contract.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said this was not the time for the Secretary of State for Scotland to be telling the Scottish TUC that he would alleviate the distress caused by the closure.

At this time (he said) for the minister and the Government to call in the parties and insist on a solution. Why has not done so already? He has known for months that these losses have been building up.

If this shipyard were to close, 4,250 jobs would be directly at risk, 2,250. Another 4,000 were directly engaged in ancillary work and contracting, so they were talking about a total of something over 8,500.

Scott Lithgow was the lead yard descended by British Shipbuilders for offshore construction and was building probably the most advanced semi-submersible rig that had yet marketed, to operate in deep Atlantic waters a far more sophisticated rig than had so far had to operate even in the deep waters of the North Sea.

It is absurd (he continued) that the future of this yard and of this

is often argued between professional researchers.

I regret that the officials who advised me on this have been accused of acting with political motives and that one has been named.

I am satisfied that the officials who advised me was utterly objective and understand the need to protect Government policy and that it is for local education authorities to propose changes in the operation of schools. I shall consider all proposals for research on their merits.

Mr Giles Radice, chief opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab): I thank him for his honest apology, in responding to my letter to *The Times* of December 3, at the report stage of the Education Support Grant Bill.

But he is aware that the issue still remains whether he is prepared to accept the professional advice of his department in the Cox and Marks study seriously underestimate the impact of social and economic factors on examination results?

Will he reassure the House he intends to live up to the standards of his high office and his own previous standards as a Fellow of All Souls and refuse to give the backing of public money to Cox and Marks who have broken the cardinal rule of research by fixing the evidence (Conservative protest) to produce results which confirm their own particular point of view?

Sir Keith Joseph: No, I totally deny the proposition that the attitude of Cox and Marks is one that often occurs between statisticians. I shall consider all proposals on their merits.

Will he in future consider the National Council for Education Standards equally with the National Children's Bureau and other such bodies for grant purposes since both are equally valid research. Would he agree this repudiates research by Labour MPs on educational ideology?

Sir Keith Joseph: It is clear from the letter I published from my statisticians that they never used the word "flawed" this report was valid and that the difference between them and the report was one which

Educational needs of unemployed

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, said during question time that he would shortly be discussing with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, Mr Norman Fowler (Lab), recommendations made in a recent report published by Youth aid about students who receive unemployment benefit.

He said the report gave a useful indication of the use of the 21-hour rule in further education colleges and schools and proposed ways improving access to education for the unemployed.

Sir Keith Joseph: No, I totally deny the proposition that the attitude of Cox and Marks is one that often occurs between statisticians. I shall consider all proposals on their merits.

Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, asked if his department would publish guidelines for use when closures of village schools were proposed, said that Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State,

had agreed to do so.

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree that it will be a useful option for those concerned while they are seeking

jobs, particularly since the quantification of three months unemployment has been removed by the Department of Health and Social Security. On his second point, I am considering ways what ways are open to us.

Mr Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman on education (Huddersfield): This Christmas, 25 per cent of teenagers are on the dole. Many of them would very much like to pursue course of education rather than merely signing on the dole.

The whole interface between the availability of work, the eligibility for benefit and the ability to qualify for the youth training scheme is in a mess that is not understood by DHSS managers and local education authorities. The result is that many teenagers are not being given sensible to devote scarce educational resources to keeping access places in use. This diverts resources from better use, perhaps in a school in another village.

As in the present year and preceding one I have set individual authority expenditure targets. Experience has shown that these are helpful to authorities in providing a degree of certainty of grant entitlement for spending at target and clearly exert a significant influence on expenditure decisions.

In the light of the views expressed by the two Welsh local authority associations I have retained the same method for determining next year's expenditure targets as that used in the current year. This enables me to withhold grant in an equitable way by ensuring that the

grant withholding in the current year of 75 per cent at 6 per cent spending above target.

I am retaining the grant protection arrangements already adopted whereby any authority spending at or below target will be exempted from both grant holdback and close-down. Similarly the limitation of grant holdback for low flexible resource authorities set in the present year will be retained for 1984-85.

Block grant will be distributed in accordance with the grant related expenditure formulae agreed by the Welsh local authority associations. I have decided to retain the existing block grant mechanisms which determine the distribution of block grant before holdback and the same safety net for limiting grant losses associated with changes in GRE – a maximum 4p loss at the county level and 1p loss at the district level.

There is a continuing need for restraint in local government

and the weight of the coins was such that she had already gone through one purse and the coins had fallen through her husband's pocket.

In view of inflation (she added) it is expensive to replace the trousers and the wallet. (Laughter)

Lord Glenarthur: I do not have as many £1 coins in my pocket as Lady Birk has, I suggest she invites her husband to change the £1 coins for a £5 note.

He said that no announcement had been made about the point at which the £1 would be withdrawn from circulation. The £1 note lasted only 11 months and the coin 40 years.

The Consolidated Fund Bill passed through all its stages.

What better way of bringing Christmas spirit into your home than a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label?

Enjoy with family and friends the taste of the world's most distinctive Scotch Whisky.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Noraid money going to those who pursue violence

TERRORISM

Mrs Thatcher coupled a condemnation of financial support for Noraid the fund-raising organization for the IRA in Northern Ireland given on American television yesterday, the House will want to commend the helpful and forthright response of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and the positive statements by the American Ambassador on Saturday's atrocity.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions in the Commons asking her to endorse the line taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about some of the undoubtedly expertise of the IRA.

Such a Government that has served the west of Scotland for more than 300 years without such a review.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterlooville, C): The tragic death

of Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) will be a guide to the future of the Government.

Mr Colvin: I am grateful to Mr Kinnock. Dr Fitzgerald was sympathetic and sent a very sympathetic message. I was able to congratulate him on the tremendous efforts in the Republic to secure the release of Mr Tidy. That resulted in the death of two of their security guards.

Cooperation close between Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic in trying to block off munitions, etc if they get over, in trying to find them.

Mr Colvin: The death of Mr Tidy caused in the Republic by the activities of the IRA is very damaging indeed to the Republic. We therefore both cooperate in

occasions in the death of one American citizen and the injury of others.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Endorsing the views of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland given on American television yesterday, the House will want to commend the helpful and forthright response of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and the positive statements by the American Ambassador on Saturday's atrocity.

What consideration has been given to increasing formal joint efforts between governments to block off the flow of munitions and money to terrorist groups?

Mrs Thatcher: The overwhelming majority of the American people and the Irish and those in prominent positions condemn violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

Violence is a negation of democracy. We pursue democracy.

Child sex case judge criticized by MPs

PM'S QUESTIONS

Legislation is to be introduced to allow the Court of Appeal to consider sentences alleged to be lenient with a view to changing those sentences, but so that there might be a guide on future sentences. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when questioned in the Commons about the case of which a man was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on Monday for an offence against a seven-year-old girl.

Mrs Thatcher said that she could not emphasize too strongly the seriousness with which the Government regarded all sexual offences against children.

The matter was raised by Mrs Elizabeth Currie (South Derbyshire, C) who asked Mrs Thatcher to study the remarks of Judge Brian Gibbons in the High Court on Friday and yesterday in which he expressed sympathy with a man who had unlawfully intercourse with a seven-year-old girl and described it as an accident.

Will she agree with me, as the mother of a seven-year-old girl, that those remarks were a disgrace?

Mrs Thatcher: I have great sympathy with Mrs Currie. The Government regards with very great seriousness indeed all sexual offences against children. I cannot emphasize that too strongly.

The Lord Chancellor has called for a transcript, so that we may first find the facts, which I believe is the proper course.

Mr Peter Lilley (St Albans, C): 490 people were convicted last year of sexual assaults on children, there is growing public concern at the severity of sentences on such attacks such as the one yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher: Within the statutory limits on sentencing laid down, the law allows for very severe sentences.

The Lord Chancellor has called for a transcript, so that we may first find the facts, which I believe is the proper course.

What happens to rates next year will of course depend on the growth of manpower must be reversed. I appreciate of course that authorities have difficult choices of priority to make but that applies in all areas of public expenditure, including my own programmes.

The main withholding penalty for spending in excess of targets has been strengthened. As in the present year the amount of grant withheld for excess expenditure up to 6 per cent above target is 40 per cent of that excess but above that level the rate of holdback increases progressively with a maximum rate of 90 per cent for authorities spending 5 per cent or more above target: this compares with a maximum rate of

expenditure. Some progress has been made on this front but not still some way to go. Since 1978/79 Local Government current expenditure in Wales has increased by about 2 per cent more than the increase in costs for the economy as a whole. We must reverse this trend.

Clearly if authorities are to meet their targets for next year this growth on manpower must be reversed. I appreciate of course that authorities have difficult choices of priority to make but that applies in all areas of public expenditure, including my own programmes.

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Commentary

Genetic engineering: 3

Super mice lead the field

Outsize mice scampering around a veterinary research laboratory in the United States are the most striking demonstration so far of the potential of genetic engineering to transform mammals, including humans.

Genetic manipulation of higher animals and plants is perhaps seven or eight years behind the research on simple single-cell bacteria, described in the first article of this series. The complex arrangement of the material (DNA) in animal and plant chromosomes is not understood well enough for scientists to splice in a particular gene and make it work in the correct tissues at the right time.

But the "giant mice" experiment, a collaborative effort by Dr Richard Palmer, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and Dr Ralph Brinster, of the University of Pennsylvania, shows what can be achieved with our present imperfect understanding. Dr Brinster injected many copies of a rat growth hormone gene produced by Dr Palmer into fertilized mouse eggs which were then implanted in foster mother mice.

Some of the resulting baby mice grew to twice normal size, stimulated by high levels of the hormone and, most significantly, they passed the genes on to their own offspring. The original line of double-sized mice, carrying eight rat hormone genes, is now in its fourth generation, and the laboratory has recently produced a similarly sized strain with human growth hormone genes.

Direct micro-injection of DNA is a hit-or-miss method of transforming mammalian eggs; fewer than half of Dr Brinster's mice successfully incorporated the genes, and other laboratories have had less success.

From a technical point of

view, similar experiments could be performed on human eggs, but they would be morally unacceptable, given all the uncertainties.

The potential for transforming farm animals is immense, however, and breeders of pigs, sheep, cattle and poultry are rushing to exploit genetic engineering. The first results are likely within two or three years.

Although the most important traits in domestic animals, such as fertility, are affected by a large number of unknown genes, the giant mice experiment showed what impact a single gene could have on the complex process of growth. The overall effect of such a simple transformation remains to be seen; suddenly doubling the size of pigs, for example, could cause breeding or health problems.

Where particular proteins are important for an agricultural product, such as casein in milk and keratin in wool, improvement through genetic engineering should not be difficult. There is also scope for inserting individual genes which confer resistance to certain animal diseases or which change the reproductive system (for instance a twinning gene is known in sheep).

But plants contribute more than animals to world food supplies, and an even bigger agricultural research effort is devoted to their genetic manipulation. This year, plant engineers have passed several milestones on the road to an arable paradise of nutritious crops growing faster than

the most glamorous ambition of plant engineering is to make all crops take their own nitrogen from the air, as clover and beans already do, with the help of bacteria living in their roots. One of the greatest constraints on world food production would disappear if farmers no longer had to spend millions on nitrogen fertilizers.

The 17 genes involved in bacterial nitrogen fixation are all known. The main problem in transferring them to plants is that the chemical process works only when oxygen is excluded. The bacteria can keep out oxygen but it may be extremely difficult to achieve similar conditions within wheat cells. However, Dr Ingle says: "I do not think this is as far-fetched as one might think."

Even less far-fetched is genetic engineering of humans, the most exciting and emotive of all applications. Many researchers expect serious clinical trials to begin within five to ten years, treating inherited diseases by correcting a faulty gene or inserting a good new gene.

Many people react strongly against the idea of tampering with the genetic make-up of humanity as it has evolved. Few, however, could object to "phenotypic" therapy with the aim of curing a disease by changing the genes in, for example, blood cells, for the lifetime of an individual.

Concluded



Heat and frost: Fireman fighting a blaze in Justice, Illinois, found ice and freezing winds an additional hazard.

Arctic freeze brings chaos to Mid West

New York (AP) - America's heartland yesterday suffered its fourth consecutive day of record-breaking cold which has left at least 22 people dead. A frigid wind from the Arctic left cars immobilized, pipes burst and schools closed.

With temperatures well below freezing across the northern third of the country, the National Weather Service predicted that scattered snow would bring additional disruption from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes.

The Platte River froze in Nebraska and ice floes backed up for five miles.

Ice burst water mains as far south as Fort Worth, Texas. A bus driver in Seattle collapsed and died while trying to free his bus from the snow by throwing sand under it. Minor traffic accidents were too numerous to count.

Many roads were impassable around Buffalo, New York, which had 3ft of snow over the weekend.

Williston, North Dakota, was the coldest place, with -40°C until a reading came in from Saint Cloud,

Minnesota, of -41°C. Then Harrison, Wisconsin, reported -44°C.

The Arctic air mass is expected to drift slowly east during the next few days, giving some relief to the Midwest but bringing freezing weather to the East, according to Mr Harry Gordon, a meteorologist at the National Severe Storms Forecast centre in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 22 deaths included traffic casualties on slippery roads in Idaho, Missouri and Utah, carbon monoxide poisonings in Oklahoma and exposure

By-elections in northern India

Testing time for Mrs Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister, and her Congress (I) Party have set themselves a big test for this Friday. They have arranged a series of by-elections to the Lok Sabha, and to legislative assemblies in five states.

Investors appeared reassured that the party would continue its rule, unbroken since 1955. The popular Mikkel Dow indicator of stock market performance leapt 143.76 points to a new record high of 9,627.98 after dropping sharply when the party's majority seemed in doubt on Monday morning. The yen also gained against the dollar - up 1.3 to 235.05.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, was officially able to add eight successful conservative independent candidates to the party roster, thus regaining a thin simple majority, with 258 seats in the 511-member Lower House, which is expected to convene to elect the Prime Minister early next week. The party won only 250 seats, an unexpected setback which had briefly knocked the wind out of the equity and exchange markets a day earlier.

But Mr Nakasone faces a tough few days. Yesterday, he called a Cabinet meeting in which he reportedly said he was sorry for the result. Three ministers - defence, transport and education - were defeated on Sunday.

The so-called mainstream factions, which elected Mr Nakasone last year, continue to support him. This includes the largest whose leader, former Prime Minister Mr Kakuei Tanaka, was largely responsible for calling the election. Parliamentary turmoil emerged after Mr Tanaka was convicted of bribery on October 12 in the Lockheed scandal.

The party's handling of Post-conviction anti-Tanaka moves by the opposition proved a serious liability, although Mr Tanaka was re-elected by a landslide in his rural home district of Niigata.

If Congress can win and win well, the plenary party congress that meets in Calcutta on December 27 will turn into an

Mrs Gandhi: Assessing Congress strength.

This rather obscure and scruffy town has become the political capital of the state overnight. State ministers are all there, campaigning busily, and showing themselves - at last - to be in touch with their people.

Friday's voting will also be the first big test of the new

alignments of the opposition parties. The two main opposition groups - the United Front which centres on the Janata party, and the National Democratic Alliance, combining the Lok Dal of Charan Singh with the Bharatiya Janata Party - have failed to agree on an electoral pact.

The United Front wanted a proportional distribution of seats among all the opposition parties. The NDA bluntly refused, saying that its parties had either won or been runners-up in every constituency where elections are being held.

This has inevitably meant a splintering of the opposition effort, and Congress may gain thereby. The general secretary of the BJP, however, thinks that the triangular voting actually benefits the opposition. "No

A decisive victory for the opposition parties will no doubt help the two alliances over an early slump in their morale: a bad defeat may galvanize them into closer relations. The voting will also help to adjudicate the differing claims of electoral strength among the factions.

At stake are three Lok Sabha seats - in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana - and 11 assembly seats in those three, plus West Bengal and Rajasthan. Vacant seats in the south have been ignored for the exercise, even though there are 13 Lok Sabha seats and 19 assembly seats vacant throughout the country.

Americans search for their dead in Laos

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

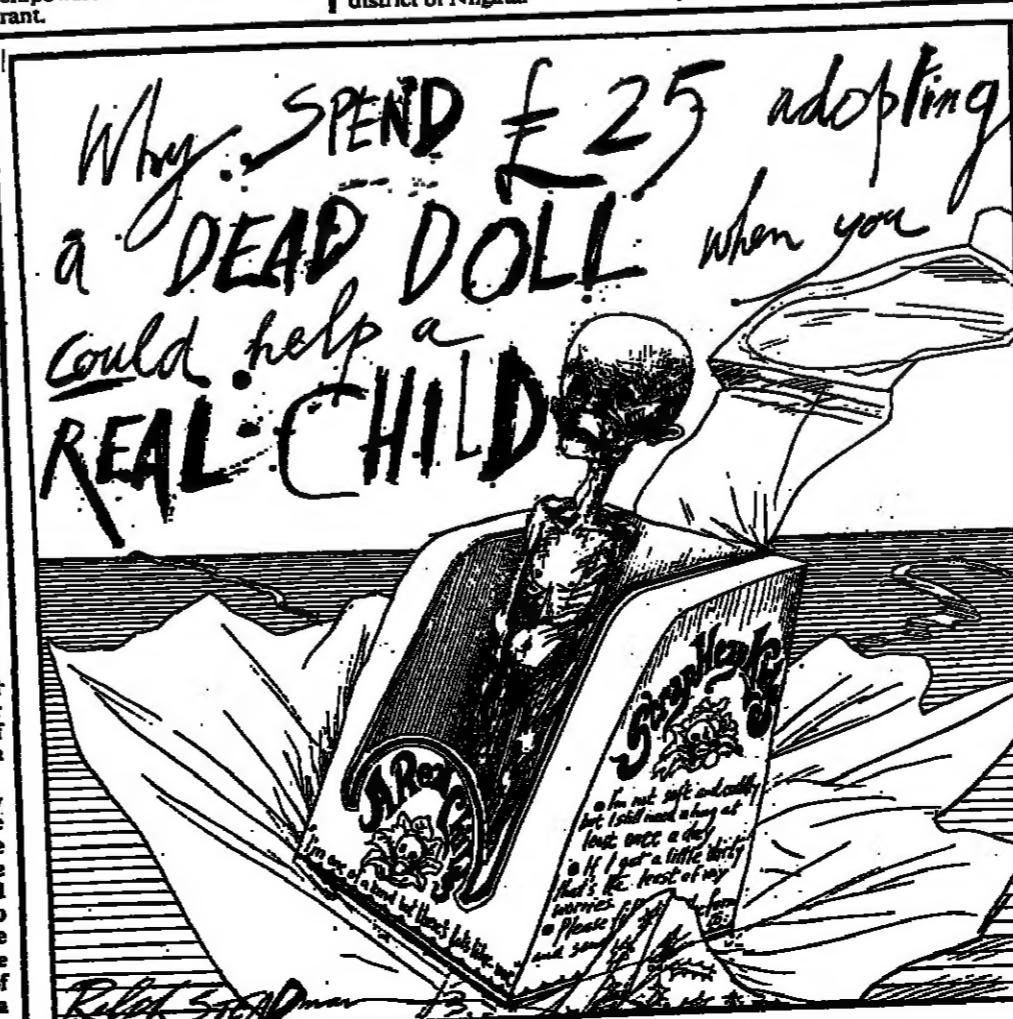
For the first time since the communists won the war in 1975, American troops today are making an on-the-ground search for missing US servicemen in Indo-China. The search is investigating a jungle site near Pakse, in southern Laos where an American transport aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire 11 years ago, killing 16 Air Force men. The remains of 13 were never recovered.

Communist authorities have

trying unsuccessfully for years to enter Laos and Vietnam to seek the remains of missing Americans.

The question of the missing Americans has been a serious impediment to the normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, and, therefore, US officials regard this new concession as a breakthrough which could lead to American recognition of Vietnam.

The Americans had been



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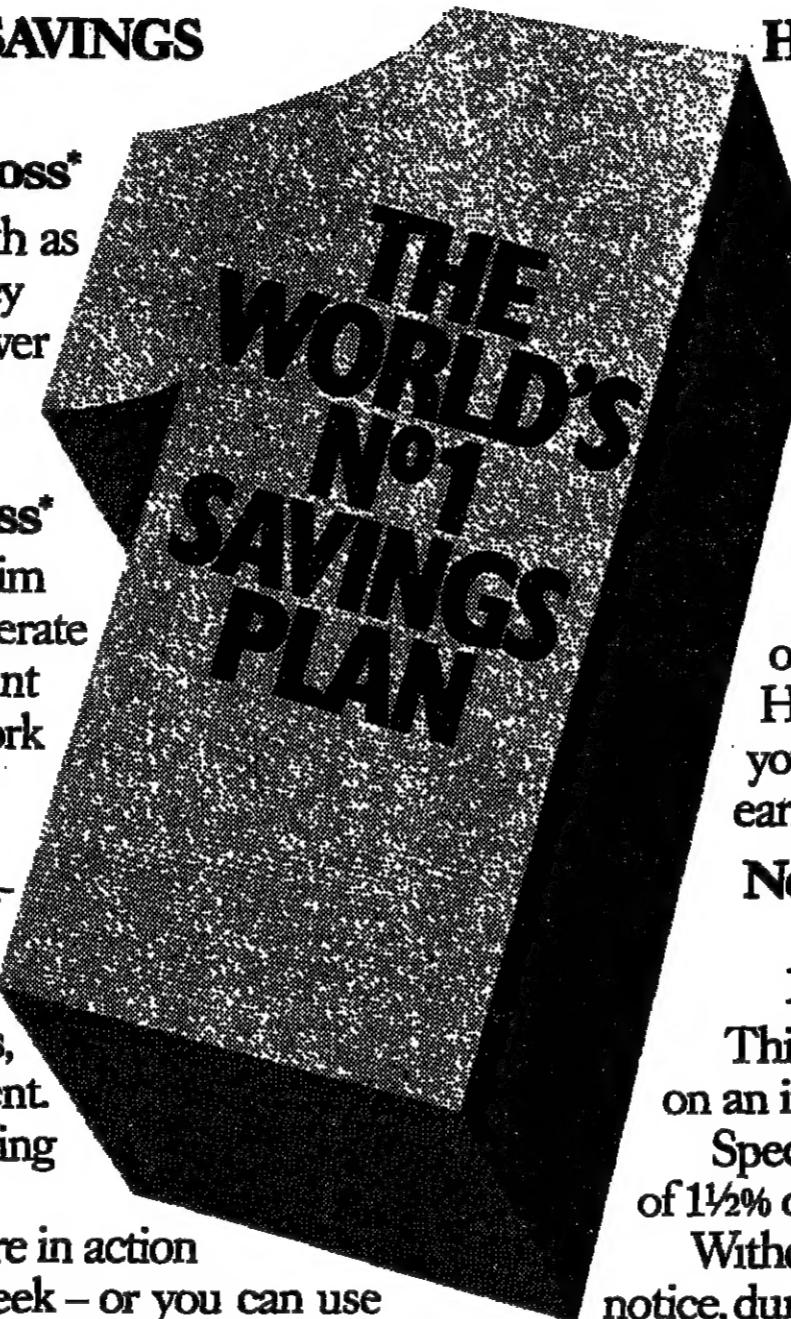
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González flies to Paris seeking joint action against Basque terror

President Mitterrand and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister who is on a private visit to Paris, met yesterday against a backdrop of growing exasperation in Madrid with French attitudes to its EEC entry and to Basque refugees in France.

There has been no official visit between the two socialist leaders since Señor González came to power just over a year ago, but there has been frequent encounters at ministerial level between the two countries.

An organization called the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder in Bayonne on Monday night of an alleged Spanish Basque terrorist, Ramón Oñaterra, who has lived in France since 1979.

Señor Oñaterra was serving behind a bar when three of four men burst in and shot him. The group was later seen escaping in a car licensed in Navarre, Spain.

There has been an increasing number of attacks and kidnaps attempted against Spanish refugees in the French Basque country over the past few months, and there are strong suspicions that the Spanish police may be involved.

Four Spanish police in plain clothes were recently caught red-handed by French police in Bayonne as they tried to kidnap a suspected leading member of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization. They were im-

prisoned and charged with premeditated wounding, but were released earlier this month, allegedly for lack of evidence.

It was noted, however, that their release came only a few days after an anonymous caller had telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastian, in the Spanish Basque country, demanding their liberation in return for the release of M Segundo Marey, a businessman of Spanish origin living in the French Basque border town of Hendaye, who had been kidnapped two days earlier.

Responsibility for the kidnapping of M Marey, who was freed last week, was claimed by the hitherto unknown Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

In its latest telephone message to a newspaper in St Jean-de-Luz, the group said that Señor Oñaterra's murder was "the systematic line of attack against ETA terrorists which we are going to pursue to the bitter end in France in the coming weeks. The murders recently committed in the Spanish Basque country will meet with a firm response."

"Today's execution is only the beginning. We will demonstrate in the same way against any French people who hide, collaborate or give work to terrorists... You will hear from us again soon."

Spain feels that, despite initial promises of closer coop-

eration, after Señor González came to power, France has done little to help tackle the Basque terrorist problem, which has caused 15 deaths in about 60 attacks in the last three months alone. It claims that the French Basque country has become a sanctuary for ETA militants.

The other big bone of contention is France's apparent dragging of its feet over Spain's application to join the EEC. French farmers, particularly in the fruit and wine-growing area of the south-west, are vehemently opposed to Spain or Portugal's entry, fearing that their markets will be swamped by the unrestricted import of cheaper products.

Earlier this month, however, Señor González described as "very positive" President Mitterrand's latest comments on the enlargement of the community, in which he called on the EEC to at least set a date for a decision.

• MADRID: The Basque autonomous Government yesterday condemned what it called "dirty war methods" of fighting terrorism after the Bayonne killing (Richard Wigg writes).

Protests were held in towns on the Spanish side of the frontier, with main road traffic blocked at Renteria, where demonstrators carried banners reading: "You are the terrorists - González, Mitterrand."

The Fat One has £239m for Spain's gamblers

From Harry Debeline, Madrid

Father Christmas looks like a Spaniard alongside Spain's most beloved Yuletide character, *El Gordo*. (The Fat One).

That is what Spaniards call their annual Christmas draw, still the world's biggest lottery despite the slipping value of the peseta. The total prize money this year, 53.1 billion pesetas (£239m), is probably greater than the entire annual state budget of some Third World countries.

With 46 top prizes of 250m pesetas (more than £1m) each, and hundreds of thousands of other prizes ranging from hefty to modest, *El Gordo* is a bet that gambling Spaniards cannot pass up. At the very least, they know that the smallest prize, amounting to a refund of the cost of the ticket, will be paid to one out of every 10.

Tomorrow morning, just as they have done for well over a century, the boys of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid, togged out in their best blue serge, will hold all Spain spellbound as



Jodie Foster: Fined

Drugs found in actress's case

Boston (AP) - Jodie Foster, aged 20, the American actress, was briefly detained and fined an undisclosed amount after \$100 (£70) worth of cocaine was found in her luggage when she arrived at Boston airport from Paris. The drug was discovered during a routine customs inspection on Monday. Miss Foster is a student at Yale.

Madrid disco owners moved to jail

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

A magistrate yesterday ordered that the four co-proprietors and manager of the Madrid discothèque, where 80 people died in a weekend fire, be transferred to Carabanchel jail. The five have been held without charge in police custody since Saturday.

Madrid's College of Archi-

tects joined the public outcry, alleging yesterday that the majority of discothéques in the capital had not been checked under the 1982 revised safety regulations.

The architects also criticized the new regulations and said they lacked precise technical specifications. Months before

the tragedy, the architects said, they told Industry Ministry inspectors that they were worried about conditions in the discothéques.

Madrid City Council officials have already admitted the 1982 regulations do not lay down anything about the frequency of safety checks.

Law Report December 21 1983

Buyers liable for repudiation

Berger & Co v Gill & Duffus SA Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman [Speeches delivered December 15]

Buyers who repudiated a contract by sale by sample, by wrongly rejecting valid shipping documents on their presentation accompanied by a valid certificate of quality in respect of only part of the contract goods could avoid liability for the repudiation if they so wished, but instead set about obtaining a GSC certificate in relation to the 445 tonnes that had been discharged. Shipping documents were re-presented to the buyers together with that certificate on March 30, but were again rejected.

The sellers then did treat that rejection as a straightforward repudiation of the contract, and elected to sue for a wrongfull repudiation of the contract in respect of which a certificate of quality had not been obtained, were nonconform with their description in a manner which went also to quality and without proving that the sellers could not have obtained a valid certificate of quality for those goods.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the sellers, Berger & Co Inc from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Robert Goff dissenting) on January 27, 1983, who allowed an appeal by the buyers, Gill & Duffus SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd on July 28, 1981.

Mr Bernard Ris, QC, and Miss Elizabeth Birch for the sellers; Mr David Johnson, QC, and Mr Peregrin Simon for the buyers.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the subject matter of the appeal was a single contract dated December 22, 1976 for the sale of 500 tonnes of "Argentine Bolita Beans - 1974 Crop" as per sample, cif Le Havre, on the terms of GFTA 41 subject to certain variations, of which the most material was a provision that a certain quantity at port discharge given by the General Superintendent Co Ltd, Paris (GSC) should be final.

On February 3, 1977 the full 500 tonnes was shipped on the Salland from Costa Rica and arrived at Le Havre on March 21, but only 445 tonnes of the consignment were discharged. The balance was overcarried to Rotterdam and brought back to Le Havre on April 2.

Shipping documents which covered the whole contract quantity of 500 tonnes were presented at the buyer's bank as provided for in the contract clause relating to payment on March 22, 1977. The buyers rejected the documents and refused

to pay against presentation on the ground that they did not include the GSC certificate as quality.

A GSC certificate under the certification clause was incapable of being included among shipping documents which a seller was required to tender to his buyer in return for payment of the price under a contract of sale in ordinary terms.

The sellers did not elect to treat the buyer's refusal to pay upon presentation of documents as a wrongful repudiation of the contract but instead set about obtaining a GSC certificate in relation to the 445 tonnes that had been discharged. Shipping documents were re-presented to the buyers together with that certificate on March 30, but were again rejected.

The sellers then did treat that rejection as a straightforward repudiation of the contract, and elected to sue for a wrongfull repudiation of the contract as received. That had the consequence in law that all primary obligations of the parties under the contract which had not yet been performed were terminated.

That termination did not prejudice the right of the party so electing to claim damages from the party to whom the goods had been supplied in accordance with the letter of his primary obligations but the contract future as well as past.

When the sellers elected to treat the contract as repudiated on April 1, they ceased to be under any contractual obligation to deliver up the contract goods. The buyers on the other hand became liable to the sellers in damages for breach of contract.

That was because the cif contract, although showing documents which transferred the property in the goods to him, the property in the goods he obtained, were subject to the condition subsequent that it would revert in the seller if upon examination the buyer found them to be not in accordance with the contract in some respect which would entitle him to reject them and did in fact reject them.

Given the absence of any suggestion of difference in quality between the 55 tonnes and the 445 that the GSC had certified as equal to the sample, the buyers lacked the finding of fact essential to their defence in part to the sellers' claim in damages that on a balance of probabilities GSC would not have issued a similar certificate in respect of the 55 tonnes.

Lord Keith, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Templeman agreed.

Solicitors: Middleton Pons & Co; Richards Butler & Co.

provided that a certificate as to quality was to be issued if the certificate was found as to the correspondence of the goods with the description of quality in the contract notwithstanding that the certificate was proved to have been inaccurate.

The reason why it was consistent with section 13 of the 1893 Act was that while "description" itself was an ordinary English word, the Act contained no definition of what it meant when it referred to a sale "by description". One had to look to the contract as a whole to identify the kind of goods that the seller was agreeing to sell and the buyer to buy.

Where the sale was "by sample" as well as "by description" characteristics of the goods which would be apparent on reasonable examination of the sample were unlikely to have been intended by the parties to form part of the "description" by which the goods were sold, even though such characteristics were mentioned in references in the contract to the goods that were its subject matter.

Unless a buyer under a cif contract accepts shipping documents which transferred the property in the goods to him, the property in the goods he obtained, were subject to the condition subsequent that it would revert in the seller if upon examination the buyer found them to be not in accordance with the contract in some respect which would entitle him to reject them and did in fact reject them.

The defendants counterclaimed for restitution of the sums paid since 1978, alleging that the continuation of the council was contrary to Community law. The court made no reference under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In its judgment the court held:

Activities relating to scientific or technical research, the compilation of statistics, the dissemination among growers of the information obtained and purely advisory functions were not of such a character as to hinder intra-Community trade or the functioning of the common organization of the markets.

On the other hand, the description of the other functions entrusted to the council did not exclude the possibility that they might be exercised in a manner capable of hindering either intra-Community trade or the common organization of the markets.

Charges such as those levied by the council, being measures of a fiscal nature or of equivalent effect, fell within the scope of articles 9 to 16 and 95 of the Treaty, not articles 30 to 34.

Since the change in question did not apply to imported produce and only to produce intended for export in the same way as produce on the home market, it did not raise any problem in relation to articles 9 to 16 and 95.

Publicity and promotional activities might be prohibited by article 30 of the Treaty if the campaign was supported by public funds.

The council, which was set up by the Government of a member state and financed by a charge on growers,



No sale: Mr Regan, the US Treasury Secretary (right) and Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, showing the press computers recovered in Europe en route to Russia.

Seized Russian-bound computers on show

From Mohsin Ali: Washington

The Reagan Administration

has its concern about illegal Soviet acquisition of Western military technology by displaying pieces of an advanced computer system seized just before it was to be smuggled into the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Donald Regan, the treasury Secretary, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defense Secretary, held a joint press conference to show their concern this week. They used a

room crowded with large pieces of sophisticated equipment they

represented about half of the shipment recently stopped by the West Germans in

Hamburg.

Mr Regan said the interception of the equipment on November 9 foiled what could have been a Soviet coup. If the powerful system, known as the Vax 782, and worth \$1.5m (£1m) had reached the Soviet Union it

would have increased the accuracy of Soviet weapons.

Another shipment of highly

sophisticated American-made

computers, also believed to be

bound for the Soviet Union,

was seized in late November at the Swedish southern port of Helsingborg. US and Swedish officials are now negotiating for the return of the consignment which is believed to be part of the same computer system

which was seriously over-scale.

The report specifically cited

over-scale residences in Nairobi,

Vienna and Singapore, where the Foreign Office had shown reluctance to economize.

Action has been agreed on

Nairobi and Vienna, but minis-

ters have decided that Eden

House should be retained in

Singapore, though the house is

69 per cent over-scale and was

last year valued at £2.75m.

The MPs said that the

Foreign Office gave too much

emphasis to prestige or tra-

dition. "We question the need

to maintain in the 1980s a

lavish style of personal accom-

modation which appears to

have outlived its time. We

therefore urge FCO to adopt

a radical change in attitude,

giving a new and positive

emphasis to considerations of

cost-effectiveness."

The Foreign Office had

tended to resist the agency's

economy plans "for questionable reasons," and officials had

shown little sign of "enthusiasm

or urgency in pursuing the

possibilities of greater economy

and efficiency".

The uncertainty has led to a

loss of political momentum,

with bewildered lower-level

officials looking for guidance

and higher-level officials

maneuvering for the next

succession.

The Communist Party is now

in the

THE ARTS

Dance in France

Russian rock lures the Parisians

If French ballet dancers can put on an evening of American modern dance, one ought not to be surprised at a troupe of Russian actors arriving in Paris with a rock opera. Versatility is the name of the game. I was able to catch both shows within 24 hours, with an early-evening programme by a visiting American company thrown in for good measure.

I am told that a taping of the Russian production looked dull on Channel 4; if so, it cannot have done justice to the effect on stage at L'Espace Pierre Cardin. Acting and dancing on steep translucent ramps, with a marvellously simple decor of a ship's prow, a few planks and ropes, imaginatively lit, the Komosomol troupe from Moscow conjure up a real-life adventure of 1806 when Count Rezanov sailed to California and tried to establish a trade and political link between Russia and the then Spanish possession.

Rezanov's ship was the Avos - a Russian word meaning a hope that could come true; but it did not. He met, loved and seduced the daughter of the governor of San Francisco, returned home for permission to marry her, and died. She waited for him 35 years, then entered a convent. Their night of love is shown in what is virtually a *pas de deux* arranged by the Bolshoi star Vladimir Vassiliev, who also staged a trained dancers.

The score of *Avos*, by Alexis Ribenkov, ranges from ancient church music through haunting ballads for the ship's officers to some first-rate rock by a Moscow group called Rock Atelier. Nikolai Karachentsev, as Rezanov, needs the microphone to cope with his limited amount of singing, but justifies his casting by the power and nuance of his acting; everyone else can put over the numbers as effectively as the lines - which, incidentally, are mostly spoken just like an operatic ensemble, everyone facing front but coming in with perfect timing.

The book is by Andrei Woznesenski, based on his long poem of the same title, and the production is directed by Marc Zakharov. Although

I know scarcely a dozen words of Russian, I was held and thrilled throughout. Which is more than I can say of the programme of contemporary works by the Ballet de l'Opéra at the Opéra-Comique.

We all know what happens to best-laid plans, and Nureyev's intention of a triple bill by Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and William Forsythe was knocked agley first when Taylor's other commitments necessitated postponing his *Rite of Spring* until next June, then when Forsythe developed food poisoning and his première had to be put back a fortnight. All the same, Nureyev managed to put on a complete programme of modern American choreography, and only one real dud among them.

That one is *Marée de morte eau*, a pretentiously silly title for a pretentiously silly work by Tim Wengert, formerly a dancer with Martha Graham. Having assembled a cast led by one of the most expressive French ballerinas, Wilfride Prollet, and four of the most gifted younger dancers, he has not much more to offer them than poses, groupings and walking around in costumes that suggested an alternative title: "I dreamed I was on stage in my Maidenform bra". Mayhe they should have gone for sponsorship.

Infinitely more worthwhile, and for me the evening's highlight, was Karole Armitage's *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*, to Rhys Chatman's heavy rock score. I wrote about it a few months ago when the Opera Ballet's experimental group gave it at Théâtre de la Ville; it proved equally effective transferred from the open stage there to the more conventional one at the Opéra-Comique.

Dancers of the experimental group also undertook the Cunningham première: *Interl II*, a revised version of a work the choreographer's own company gave at Sadler's Wells on one of their London visits. John Cage's score, with sounds of water slopping or trickling around, caused quite a few intermission jokes about

Effective transfer: *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*

the need to "laire pipi", but the dancers tackled the complex assignment with its many demanding balances and slowly evolving movements, conscientiously, although unfortunately without quite the understanding of weight and emphasis that could convert it from an exercise to a lively experience.

Nobdy could accuse Louis Falco's *Black and Blue* of lacking liveliness.

Set to songs by Harry Nilsson and Randy Newman, it is a choreographic joke about boxing. Jean Guizerix brings a wary but massive power to the old champion, Bull Washington; Charles Jude is his hopeful young rival, Kid Lefay; and there are five others engaged in minor bouts - three of them played by a group of young women as delightful as they are talented: Florence Clerc, Marie-Claude Pietragalla and Marie-Josée Redon.

Two of the younger male soloists, Frédéric Olivieri and Wilfried Romoli,

also have a round that suggests they have the quality to become champions themselves, and (for no very good reason except a casual line in one of the songs) there is a chorus line of spacers, who are fine when they simply progress across the back, dimly seen through gauze, but Falco runs out of ideas for them when they actually invade the stage towards the end.

To be honest, Falco gets a bit short of ideas generally through trying to go 10 rounds, and like many of his works it ends inconclusively, but it is fun most of the time and the dancers (direct from the opulent *Raymonda* up the Boulevard des Italiens) let their hair down engrossingly.

The spirit they bring to Falco's choreography causes me to wonder what they might make of Lucinda Childs's. She and her company, at the Théâtre de la Ville, gave three works in a 75-minute programme without intermission. What energy!

The oldest work of the evening, *Dance I* from 1979, shows her style at its purest: based, like the Philip Glass score, on repetition with tiny variations, it has tremendous pace and constantly changing detail that demands and rewards close attention as the eight dancers whizz back and forwards across the stage in pairs.

The later pieces show the same principles being pulled sideways into more elaborate floor patterns and greater variety of pace. The earlier work has a bigger impact but Childs has obviously found a way forward that does not distort the original concept. The way she commands both form and individuality ought to be an inspiration to modern British choreographers, too many of whom seem to flounder about without either. It is frustrating that, when she brings her company to Paris, nobody can add a side trip to London.

John Percival

Concert
Accent on SchubertNash Ensemble
St John's/Radio 3

Christmas relaxation in what is proving a distinguished series of BBC lunchtime concerts was provided by the Nash Ensemble in Schubert's Octet, an unsuprisingly piece of divertimento-type music as has not been written. Now that Schubert's Septet is quite justifiably rarely played, we are less aware of the strong tradition of early nineteenth century "broken consort" pieces to which many composers, notably Hummel, contributed many works.

It would have been a callous heart that was not touched again by the generous warmth and lilting rhythms of the Nash's performance, especially in its ebullient but always lyrical finale, with smiling, trilling sequences. There were some outstanding contributions from the clarinet of Michael Collins in particular, and the way in which bassoon and horn took up the agile theme of the first movement showed a sense of fine interplay and responsiveness in the group.

One small aspect worried me. In an interesting essay published a year ago, Arnold Feil showed how meticulous was Schubert's use of accents in this score: he does not mark thumps on every barline as the Nash naturally played it, but two unaccented bars - and, as Feil pointed out, the confusion between decrescendo marks and accent marks in the notation is considerable, and was not clarified here.

Listening to the whole work, the prominence and variety of Schubert's expressive use of accents was very striking. Those in the sinister introduction to the finale were played with a sharp, effective attack, but those in the opening Allegro too often turned into just a lunge. The instruments of the time far more naturally made a biting attack followed by a sudden decay; to try and recreate the complexity indicated by Schubert's markings might reveal more subtleties in the music.

Nicholas Kenyon



Doris Soffel: a touch of panache

Opera
Linguistic limboDie Fledermaus
Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's *Fledermaus* dates from New Year's Eve, 1977. The present revival for much of its very considerable length gives the strong impression that it too was cast and probably rehearsed, at round about that date. The production creeps through Julia Trevelyan Oman's dowdy sets - her least successful foray into opera - occasionally flexing an arthritic limb and pointing it in the direction of Strauss's Vienna. But that city remains dispiritingly out of reach: this *Fledermaus* stays exactly where it should not be, in some linguistic limbo, where everyone uses whatever tongue is convenient.

But it is Christmas. So the credits, which mostly concern the newcomers, should be listed first. There is, thank goodness, now a mezzo Orlofsky and a very good one in the shape of Doris Soffel. Her princeling is an exotic figure, his bald pate gleaming like a billiard ball, and with a general demeanour much like that assumed by Klaus Kinski during his forays into vampire-land. And Miss Soffel, who was disappointing in Bayreuth last summer, is right back in voice and leads the Act II ensembles with a panache sadly missing around her.

Felicity O'Neill's Alfred is as gassy, roly-poly, Italianate in speech and song, quite happy anywhere provided that he can roll out an aria or a bit of one. And there is back again Josef Weinrad's incomparable Frosch. He and Ingrid Baier, in the tiny part of Ida, bring the only authentic touch of Vienna.

In the pit is Placido Domingo, conducting for the Friends of Kent Opera.

Simon Cadell (right) bids farewell to *Hi-de-Hi!* in the run which opens at the Victoria Palace tomorrow. Interview by Sheridan Morley

One last fling at the old holiday camp

Even allowing for Danny La Rue in *Hello Dolly!* at the Prince of Wales, there cannot be much doubt that the campiest Christmas show of the season is to be found at the Victoria Palace, where Simon Cadell leads the television cast of *Hi-de-Hi!* in their first London stage season. Butlin nostalgics adduced to this everyday story of life and times behind the scenes in a 1950s holiday camp may however be saddened to learn that the current season marks the retirement of Jeffrey Fairbanks, the bemused academic who for the last four years and 32 television episodes has been attempting to make some sort of sense of redcoat existence: though the series goes into a fifth season on BBC1 next year, Mr Cadell has decided that the time has come to return to his legitimate theatrical roots and in no uncertain way - as soon as the Victoria Palace runs out in March, he goes to Birmingham to give his *Hamlet*.

This is not however the usual story of the clown with Shakespearean yearnings: Cadell comes from a classic-theatre family and started out in *As You Like It* long years before he ever got caught up with the camp comedies. And though the last year of his life has been solidly taken up with *Bournemouth* and BBC seasons of *Hi-de-Hi!* (with the exception of one short break during which to declare all possible interests, he was kind enough to play in a show of mine at the King's Head) there is not much doubt that he and Fairbanks have gone, as far as they can together.

"He begins to bore me, and when a character does that then you must stop playing him, as soon as you can. Not that I'd have wanted to miss the chance: these last four years of my life have been extremely happy, and there's no doubt that a hit comedy series on television moves you further forward in the theatre than a hit drama series. Look at what happened to Penelope Keith and Richard Briers and Paul Eddington: they all now lead the West End because of their television-comedy background. On the other hand there are dangers in staying too long with any one series: I live in dread of the night at Birmingham that I go out to do the first soliloquy and somebody calls out 'Hi-de-Hi' from the gallery. It's already happened to me once, on a tour

of *Private Lives*, and it's the kind of thing you're awake worrying about. That and being an all-right sort of Hamlet, I wouldn't mind being extremely bad, and I hope to be extremely good; what I couldn't bear was the idea of being all right in the role, it's not that sort of role, is it?"

Now 33, Cadell has already been in the business for 15 years, the son of a distinguished actors' agent, and the grandson of the actress Jean Cadell, he went to the Bristol Old Vic drama school in the 1967-69 generation of John Caird and Jeremy Irons and Tim Pigott-Smith.

"At first I was desperately shy of telling my father I wanted to go into the business, and when I did he told me I'd spend most of my life without work or money. But the only other possibility was Law, and I so hated the classics master at school that I never got as far as O-level Latin, so that ruled that out. But I did get to Bristol, and from there straight into the Rep as an assistant stage manager, which meant that in all I've only ever had four months out of work. I suppose it has been a rather charmed existence, though not in any way because my father is an agent. Indeed I've never used that connection: I decided that if he was the greatest man for that job, but a lot of people in the company didn't agree and some of them still don't speak to me much even five years later. But that apart, the Actor Company was a remarkable experience: with an Arts Council grant of barely £50,000 we managed to tour two full-length plays (an Ayckbourn and a Shaw) plus two Pinter one-acts all around England, and South America plus a London season for which there was no funding at all. Part of the deal was that everything had to fit into half-a-dozen crates, except the actors who were allowed to travel separately.

"But I've always had a lot of time for the commercial theatre, which sadly most of my generation of actors seem now to look down on: there's no reason, critically or artistically, why Shaftesbury Avenue has to be a poor relation of the subsidized or regional companies. But, because twenty years ago commercial managers panicked at the escalating costs and began doing one-set six-character shows, people realized they could get that by staying at home with the television. Which is what they did. Now we have to get them back by spending some money and creating shows they can't get at home, and I don't just mean big old musicals."

Unusually for an actor of his generation and temperament, Cadell has lived almost entirely in the West End and regional theatre; his film career has thus far been limited to one non-appearance in a Peter Sellers comedy (his scene ended up on a cutting-room floor) and by the time the major companies did start showing some interest he was already deeply into *Hi-de-Hi!*

"But I've done some long West End runs, first with Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft in *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and then with John Clements in a Haymarket court drama, and I've been very lucky in working with that generation of players. I also have a brother

Television
Gripping snapshot

With 1984 so close, the literary CID, always alert for a significant date and unconcerned about overtime, is already conspicuously reinvestigating George Orwell. His case is unlikely to be closed. Exposition is indeed so abundant that generations who have not read him might conclude that there is no necessity to do so.

Should that be the case, last night's BBC1 drama-documentary, *Orwell on Jura* - the Crystal Spirit, may have caused them to think again, spurring them to appraise for themselves this odd, lonely chap with the obsession with truth, the admirable scepticism and the determination to power. BBC Scotland struck tellingly here while other fictions are still heating. It will be interesting to see if anything - and there will be much more - comes up to the excellent snapshot they presented.

The supporting cast was equal to his virtuoso performance. Fiona Walker as his sister, Avril and David Swift as his artist friends, were particularly good. Plater's script enabled them to present a picture of solid relationships based on affection but tempered by it was an ornery cove.

"I read all your damn books", Avril tells him when he returns from hospital; the brief sister-brother dialogue, with irony masking sentiment, on their relative literary merit was one of many memorable moments. The cast, the producer Norman McCandlish, the director John Glenister and Mr Plater can go into 1984 with well-patted backs.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Aladdin
Shaftesbury

You name it, and it crops up somewhere in the uncredited book.

Meanwhile, we have to roar a greeting to every entrance of Jill Gascoine's cheeky cockney Aladdin, and Richard O'Sullivan's Wishie Washie; warn the cast of lurking gorillas, and hurl insults at each other. As there is also a black theatre number to get through, plus tinselled excursions into revved-up Borodin, there is not much time to spare for any silly old story about a magic lamp.

This is a pity, as the book contains two promising new twists. Abanazar first casts a spell to save Aladdin from an imperial beheading and subsequently transforms Wishie Washie into the Slave of the Lamp. Either of these ideas could have been interestingly followed up. But, come the cave scene, and Aladdin has forgotten any reason for being grateful to his benefactor. And although Mr O'Sullivan appears to well-motivated advantage in a gold-lamé track suit with nodding cobra headpiece, his transformation has no influence on events. I have never seen the final rescue scene pass off with so little attempt at suspense.

The show is played against a hideous set of cutouts depicting the Peking supermarket or the Twinkley laundry in spider-line drawings (by Alan Miller Bunford) and generally lit by James Baird in bilious yellow.

Irving Wardle

special character, harshly vindictive and whimsical by turns, that owes nothing to a director's prop basket or performers like Joanna Myers, regarding the couriers in these curious kingdoms only as a heaven-sent chance for mugging and grimacing.

As the Gullivers themselves (there are two), the elegantly grizzled and bespectacled John Castle, drolly interpreting a multiplicity of nonsense languages from a corner of the stage, sees his younger self find himself successively a giant, a midget, a dumbo among intellectual nutes and a human inferior graciously received by horses.

Of course, Swift's satire and his fierce indignation (his own famous words) at mankind's follies and cruelties become contemporary afresh in every decade. In London now, who needs a commentator for gunpowder as a civilized device for blowing people up, for the horse kingdom's sexual equality in education or indeed for Laputa's planning blight through the unfinished schemes of "projection"?

But all this is in the book, available to read and full of a

Gulliver's Travels
Gate at Latchmere

For all its filly-shirted mariners clinging to the main mast, or choreographed Houyhnhnms in body stockings, Lou Stein's adaptation of Swift is not much more than a director's exercise. It adds little (and is not really convincing) to stage Lilliput or Brobdingnag by having actors look upwards or downwards at imaginary and unstageable figures: the Laputans' experiments gain little by showing a plastic tube shoved up a toy dog's behind, and the little bits of dramaturgy necessary to cover awkward joins in the plot sound as though they were wound on the back of an envelope.

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Anthony Masters

THE JEWEL CROWN

"This is the story of a rape, of the events that led up to it and followed it... the affair ended with two nations locked in an imperial embrace of such long standing and subtlety it was no longer possible for them to know whether they hated or loved one another."

Paul Scott

Monday 9 January 1984

GRANADA TELEVISION

SPECTRUM

Sweet silver song of the Lark

A sweet and gentle rural memoir is on the verge of becoming a moneyspinning exercise in merchandising. Shirley Lowe charts the making of *Lark Rise to Candleford* into a bandwagon for everything from dolls and cosmetics to bedspreads.

"Oh, Laura! What a dunce you are," Miss Holmes, the village schoolmistress used to say to nine-year-old Flora Thompson when she couldn't do her sums. Miss Holmes was wrong. Flora, during the last years of her life, wrote three semi-autobiographical books about her Victorian childhood in rural Oxfordshire which, published in one volume, became *Lark Rise to Candleford*, the source and inspiration of a continuously expanding industry in nostalgia.

The hardback version of the book was published in 1939 and has been in print ever since. It went into paperback and sold 373,000 copies. Keith Dewhurst turned it into two plays for the National, it has been produced as a record, bought up for a film and planned as a television series. This month the lavishly illustrated, abridged version of Flora Thompson's classic, bound beguilingly in country-kerchief red and white cloth, notched up sales of 200,000 copies, making it a serious contender for the coveted *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* Christmas success spot.

Next year, *Lark Rise* rolls on to become a major merchandising project worth millions of pounds to stores and to the manufacturers of sheets and stationery and anything else that can be commercially glossed with the homespun charm and simple virtues of Mrs Thompson's lost world.

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 and lived with her parents and nine brothers and sisters (six of whom died in childhood) in the crowded end cottage of a hamlet called Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire - "A huddle of grey stone boxes with thatched or slated lids of the kind then thought good enough to house a farm labourer's family." In her books Juniper Hill is renamed Lark Rise, Flora calls herself Laura and Fringford, the nearby village where 14-year-old Laura is apprenticed to the postmistress, is known as Candleford Green. The area is now bounded by American Air Force bases and unpicturesque A roads.

Flora married John Thompson, a young post office clerk, when she was 24; because he despised her reading and writing as a waste of time, she wrote secret, sugared love stories and nature notes and poetry for women's magazines to pay for her children's upbringing. It was not until she was 61 that she began her masterpiece, a child's minutely observed view of the life of the poor in a remote Oxfordshire hamlet during the 1880s and 1890s, when the English countryside was on the brink of inevitable change.



The rise and rise of *Lark Rise*. Top, designer Nicholas Thirkell, who has ways of making you read. Above left, the marketing team and, right, the book itself. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

She recorded a world of simple pleasures and pastimes: the children playing dancing games and peg-tops, the men working long hours in the fields for 10 shillings a week and enjoying a sing-song in the pub in the evenings, the women scrubbing, cleaning, cooking, caring for animals and children and managing to make a meal out of a scraping of lard seasoned with sweet rosemary. "They knew the now-lost secret of being happy on little," recalled Mrs Thompson, before her death in 1947.

The *Morning Star*, reviewing the National Theatre's highly successful "promenade" version of *Lark Rise* at the Cottesloe - the audience had to step smartly back as the villagers swept towards them with scythes - saw it differently, as "the harsh reality of rural poverty and the close, supportive but sometimes claustrophobic atmosphere of village life."

Either way, Flora is in tune with our current collective nostalgia for rural simplicity, the romantic evocation in memoirs and reprints and television serials and supermarkets of a bygone era when Mrs Bridges knew her place, every bedroom was sprigged in Laura Ashley cotton, and jam pots were topped with red and white checked cambrie. Her philosophy, embodying such back-stiffening maxims as "Pay your way and fear nobody" and "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well", is the very stuff of those Victorian values so admired by Mrs Thatcher.

Ever since Rowena Stott came upon her great-aunt Edith's diary and

Michael Joseph published it in a faithful facsimile as *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, the publishing world has been searching for an equally satisfactory money-maker. It was published in 1977, has sold more than 2½ million copies in hardback, been translated into 13 different languages and appeared on the best-seller list in every country it has been printed, the most bought and least read book of our time. Just over a year ago, fashion consultant Nigel French and his assistant Pauline Deppe, bought the merchandising rights of *Country Diary* and, after just one full year of licensing and trading, Edith Holden's poppies and cornflowers are ablaze on more than three hundred items from 32p postcards to £3,000 kitchens - even the Japanese have made her English country-garden flowers look wanly oriental on a tea service - and the 30 licensees have achieved £28m in retail sales.

Since a merchandising company normally takes between 5 and 10 per cent of the profit of everything sold and as the publisher and the author's estate (or whoever holds the rights to the book) stand to get around 50 per cent of that, you can see why publishing houses have been urging their editors to clear the attics and seek out granny's old flower paintings. Over at Century, a new house started 18 months ago by Anthony Cheetham and a small breakaway group from McDonalds, they have been on the treasure hunt, too, and come up with six plastic bags full of a meticulously detailed diary of a Victorian journey up the Nile as well as some fine granny paintings from a grand house in Gloucestershire. Nevertheless, Anthony Cheetham thought it might be cleverer to approach the problem from the opposite direction: to get the best text possible and then illustrate it. And *Lark Rise* is, as he says, one of the best books ever written about childhood.

He passed the project over to Julian Shuckburgh of Shuckburgh Reynolds, one of the small packaging houses which specialize in producing the sort of lavishly-illustrated books publishers can no longer cope with themselves, without a large, skilled staff. Shuckburgh, brought up in Oxfordshire and bred on Flora Thompson, jumped at the idea: "I saw at once how we could do it." He cut the 200,000 or so words in the book back to 90,000, leaving most of Flora's childhood intact - "It scared me to death to do it" - and called in designer Nicholas Thirkell who, in turn, brought in picture researcher Jenny de Geer. She hunted out old photographs, a superb collection of Victorian paintings (15,000 portfolios at £9.95 each, containing a set of these paintings used as illustrations in the book, have already sold out) and, toughest of all, managed to gather flowers in mid-winter for the pressed flowers that decorate each page of the book.

While it's easy enough to see how Edith Holden's flora can be printed on sheets and cups and such, *Lark Rise to Candleford* is a book of words rather than a diary of pictures, so how do you cash in on the description of the lives of simple people before their traditions

were swept away by the machine age? How do you commercialize an era?

The answer is in the presentation. "My brief was a difficult but exciting one," says Nicholas Thirkell. "It was to create another *Country Diary* best-seller." Usually a publisher says: "Oh, we can only afford two-colour and we'll be doing a small run to start with . . ." but here I was invited to go for broke."

He chose the tactile appeal of old-fashioned cloth for the cover, made the inside look a little like a cottager's scrapbook and, trying to think of an idea that symbolized the countryside and had a good graphic look for the bookshops, came up with the countryman's red and white polka-dot scarf. "I put the whole thing together in about six weeks and it was an absolute labour of love."

The finished book is a visual treat and, looking at it, one might almost say, as indeed the *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company brochure does: "What could be more natural than that this masterpiece should form the centrepiece of an extensive range of quality products?"

Debenhams will launch *Lark Rise* in July, giving them a two-month lead on other retailers. Manufacturers are queuing up for the privilege of recreating furniture in harmony with the stone and thatch of Mrs Thompson's humble cottage, of making wholesome smocks in simple calico and drill, of preparing herbal cosmetics in the correctly "natural" way and turning out cakes and preserves to look and taste as though the villagers of Lark Rise had been up all night baking them. Debenhams are excited by the project in the second half of 1984 they estimate the promotion should generate between £3m and £4m of turnover.

The first *Lark Rise* products will be unveiled at the Birmingham Gift Fair in February and plans are well advanced for the US market.

This is only the beginning of the *Lark Rise* nostalgia industry. Next year Anthony Cheetham will be bringing out a series of children's books - followed by a range of dolls - in which plucky little Laura surmounts all sorts of difficulties ("There were times when I thought, 'Oh, no, we can't do that,'" he says, "but then I decided we mustn't start treating *Lark Rise* with too much reverence . . .").

"Although she was a poor child I hope she can be made into a lovable doll," Desmond Preston says.

The money side is complicated. Oxford University Press, Flora Thompson's original publishers, who hold the rights (Century have bought the abridged illustrated rights only), get 50p of every book sold this year and a percentage increase next. They also get a small proportion of the merchandise profits (some of which they pass on to Flora Thompson's only surviving relative, a grand-daughter in Australia) and the right to veto anything of which they disapprove, from a biscuit tin to a bedspread. The *Lark Rise* Merchandise Company, who do all the work of exploiting the book, get 50 per cent of the merchandising royalties and Oxford University Press, Century, Shuckburgh Reynolds, and Nicholas Thirkell split the rest.

The same team of Cheetham, Shuckburgh, Thirkell and de Geer are now at work on a companion volume to *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*. It is *The Illustrated Cider with Rosie*, so anyone who doesn't care to emulate the humble world of a poor Victorian hamlet should wait for a year or so when a mood may be created for living rather more prosperously, like Laurie Lee did a century later, in his picturesque Cotswolds valley.

moreover...
Miles Kington

How to
be an
oracle

One of the hazards of the festive season is finding yourself talking to someone you don't like about something you can't understand - Uncle Harry, for instance, or electronics, or the America's Cup. What you need is a short swift argument that will either stop the conversation stone dead, divert it entirely, or convince the other side you are a genius. Or a lunatic.

Here are a few handy notions to cut out and memorize, listed by subject.

The Greenham Common Peace Women
"Of course, Ronald Reagan thinks that all peace movements are a help to be enemy, so he has decided to discredit them. And the way he's done this is to send a peace-keeping force to the Lebanon which does nothing but bomb and shell people. See what I mean? Sooner or later people will start associating the word 'peace' with destruction and murder, as advertised by US Marines, and the Greenham Common Peace Women will be disgraced. Maybe they will even be shelled. Unless they've already got their own weapons. Do you think the Greenham Common Peace Women are developing their own independent deterrent?"

The Booker Prize

"I heard it from a friend who knows one of the judges very well that this year, and every year for all I know, they deliberately chose the book they'd hated most. Yes, sounds odd, but apparently the idea is that they get fed up reading all those novels day in, day out, and they think it's very unfair that they should be the only ones to suffer. So what they do is pick out one novel that they found particularly tiresome and give it the prize, so that everyone else suffers and buys it and goes through the same torture. Yes, apparently the one they really liked best never even got on the short list. Yes."

The Day After

"No, I didn't actually see the film. I don't like old horror movies. Nor do I have this American taste of horrifying yourself. The Americans absolutely adore being scared, you know - that's why Soviet Russia is such a godsend. But they also have Scars of the Year, a new flavour of scare, like herpes one year, AIDS the next, and the destruction of Kansas the next. Well, apparently the Russians have noticed this and they're now working on a new scare which is really going to scare the Americans. It's nuclear herpes. That's right. When the bomb finally goes off, it will give the Americans cold sores and ruin their sex lives."

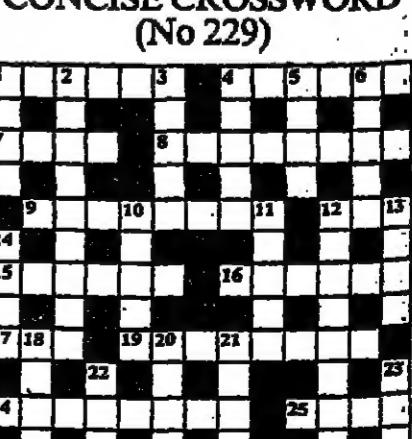
Computers

"Apparently this guy in a Scottish university did a survey on his home computer. He wanted to find out whether anyone, anywhere in Britain, had found a really valid and useful function for his home computer. You know how you read these brochures called *The Million Things You Can Do With Your Home Computer*, but the only ones they ever mention are playing games and listing phone numbers? Well, this guy in Scotland was very worried that home computers would become the skeletons of the future - Every Home Has One In The Attic - so he was very anxious to discover the valid uses now, so that he could publicize them. So anyway he got all his data together and fed it into the computer, then asked it the vital question: 'Are there any useful functions for home computers?' The only example it could find was some nut in Scotland doing a survey on the uses of home computers."

The NGA

"Has it ever occurred to you that papers don't appear on big holidays, but that this doesn't give newspaper workers the day off, because they're working on the next day's paper? That's the only day that newspaper workers get off is the day before a holiday. Well, they're fed up with this. They want a public holiday same as anyone. That's what this NGA trouble is all about, apparently. Yes. This chap told me. He'd read Harold Evans's book."

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 229)



ACROSS
1 Livestock feed (6)
2 Idle talk (5)
3 Longest river (4)
4 Women's underwear (8)
5 Deserter (8)
6 Adult males (3)
7 Column base (6)
8 Emergence (6)
9 Type of reggae (3)
10 Arabic counting system (8)
11 Powerful whippoor (9)
12 Cut short (4)
13 Nuzzles (4)
14 Primates (4)
15 Desertion (5)
16 Antibody (5)
17 Mountain nymph (5)
18 Wicked (4)
19 Good (4)

DOWN
1 Coward (4)
2 Luxurious life (5,4)
3 Keepsake (5)
4 Christmas play (5)
5 Difficult journey (4)
6 Exclusive (5)
7 Additional (5)
8 Message acknowledgement (5)
9 Cow (5)
10 Coward (4)
11 Coward (4)
12 Coward (4)
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SOLUTION TO No 228
ACROSS: 1 Banzai 5 Doff 8 Tramp 9 Tumbler 12 Delusion 13 Fain 15 Telepathy 18 Ripe 19 Snappish 22 Macramé 23 Loose 24 Alvy 25 Eel.
DOWN: 2 Avail 3 Zip 4 Introspective 5 Drumb 6 Fallacy 7 Study 10 Rend 12 Sluk 14 Sun 15 Typical 16 Dram 17 Axien 20 Probe 21 Way 23 Lit.

Exploiting sadness

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Bad taste and good timing

Liquid Sky, the latest international hit movie, is about aliens from outer space who attach themselves to the bisexual world of New York's New Wave / fashion / heroin set. But the dominant performance is the baleful, glittering presence of New York as a physical structure, almost as a breathing electronic organism. Manhattan has never looked creepier, or more majestic. The film is also very funny, full of sick humour, explosions of obscenity, video fun and dazzling sleaze.

"I wanted some Brechtian quality of detachment," says Slava Tsukerman, the director, talking in a crowded pub in Waterloo, surrounded by green spiky hair and the constant crunch of black leather. His own hair is rather odd, long ringlets flowing out of the neck and over his mackintosh. He is given to mirrily generally which is just as well since he is a Russian Jew, born in Moscow in 1939, who arrived in New York in 1976 with his Russian wife.

"These New Wave people I use are already extreme people who make a theatre of life," he says, "so when you film them it's like double theatre. My feeling is the more ambiguous the film, the better including the comedy." His wife is in it too. She plays a fashion writer with cold, lesbian-style chic.

So what is Russian humour like? "That's a good question. . . The British tradition of dry black humour is very like Russian humour. But Russians get

very sad. It's a national characteristic."

Liquid Sky, with its oriental sense of colour and display, is a celebration of its own freedom: "I find decadence very good for showing the problems of society." It is also his first feature in the West, and by some fluke the first feature ever made by a Russian emigré in the US. Eisenstein tried and failed. Where did the money come from?

"A real-estate developer in Pennsylvania. Surprisingly, it turns out. Like my leaving Russia - for the visa I wait only one and a half months. It was good timing. Nixon's visit or something. Of course the moment you apply for the visa you are outlawed so you have to get it or your life is finished. I leave Russia for Israel on April 15, 1973. *Liquid Sky* opened in the United States on April 15, 1983. Another piece of synchronicity: my Russian film career began with a 20-minute short, *I Believe in Spring*, which won a prize at the Montreal Festival in 1962, although the authorities didn't tell me. I eventually read it somewhere in a magazine; and my American career begins with the prize for originality at Montreal 1982."

Did he train as a filmmaker in Russia? "No, as a construction engineer." Then he registered as an amateur film-maker, an official position since the American press was just as controlled by the government as the Russian press. So the first thing I have to explain is that there is no press in Russia, just government clerks releasing certain

things. But nobody believes propaganda any more in Russia, nobody believes in this perfect future society.

"But propaganda can still be powerful even when you don't believe in it. For example, I expected very much to be homesick. This is one of their big points. If you read books about Rachmaninov or Stravinsky, they say they suffered tremendously abroad from homesickness and never forgot anything after they left Russia. I knew this was propaganda, but still I was frightened, sitting in a small restaurant in Moscow a couple of days before I left, feeling really terrible like it's the last time I can ever hear Russian conversation. But in New York there are almost as many Russian restaurants as in Moscow."

Would he like to say something about life in Moscow? "The only place you have crowds of people discussing modern poetry all through the night is Moscow." This appears to illustrate the principle that intellectual activity increases with physical repression.

"Exactly. They talk because they cannot do anything. If you do anything you go to prison."

Presumably *Liquid Sky* cannot be shown in Russia?

"Oh, never. They are repressed about everything, including sex. All communist societies are very repressed sexually."

Liquid Sky is currently showing in London at the Classic Cinema and the Chelsea.

Duncan Fallowell

مكتبة من الأصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PARISH PUMP IMPERIALISM

The Rates Bill is misnamed. Of course it would suit ministers to appear as white knights saving the householders of Barnsley and the factory owners of South Yorkshire from councillors who have sadly abused the tax weapon given them by the traditional system of property rating. But unless the Government has given itself over to quixotry, its ambitions must surely be larger. The Government is relying on this Bill to secure two objectives that have consistently eluded it: the control and reduction of local spending. Rates, let it not be forgotten, are only one element in the process of council spending; they are by no means an infallible guide to town hall excess. It is not rate levies but aggregate spending that, within no more than two years, will prove this contested piece of new law.

The theory of "rate capping" is deceptively simple. Pin the excess of spending, the unmanageability of the municipal system on the few easily-named Labour city councils; control their spending; a general problem is solved as other councils take heed. Yesterday's briefings made much of "shadow effects" and "fringe areas" by which councils outside the selective scheme suddenly would see reason. Yet here is where the Government's argument in the Bill runs into the sand. If Islington, Hackney, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne are

uniquely culpable, then what need is there of demonstration effects? And unless the "high-spending" councils are responsible for exceeding the Treasury's targets year after year what is the argument behind the Government's wish for a general power to set the spending of each and every council in England and Wales?

In seeking to get the Labour-controlled city authorities squarely in the sights of his selective scheme Mr Jenkins is asking Parliament for elastic powers, so extensive he might as well name his list of guilty councils now and save tedious committee discussion. But no, the Bill bends over itself to involve Parliament at various stages of naming councils and setting their spending. Mr Jenkins' schemes appear perfectly manageable if councils cooperate in good faith. That is unlikely and the prospect is one of huge bargaining sessions involving civil servants, ministers and members of Parliament and stretching over several months. The Bill says there are to be 45 extra civil servants - at first without a significant increase in the time devoted by central offices to the detail of local spending. The Bill poses grave dangers of maladministration.

It also calls into question the consistency with which the Government is prepared to tackle the issue of local spending. The councils on Mr Jenkins's

little list are endearingly termed under another departmental rubric "partners": Hackney and Islington and the rest receive special money under the Inner Urban Areas Act. Rate-capping shoots a hole clean through inner cities policy for it really no longer makes much sense for more than £400 million to be pushed into special projects for precisely those areas from which Mr Jenkins hopes to save hundreds of millions. To make rate-capping work will involve not only his own officials speaking with a single voice. It will not do for the departmental ministers responsible for schools and social services and law and order to hold themselves aloof from the battles to come. Rate capping means cuts in departmental empires.

For the long and short of rate-capping is jobs. The bulk of local spending pays for the employment of street-sweepers, professional "volunteers", teachers, nuclear-free-zone officers; the Rates Bill will succeed in its own terms if and when the manpower watch for local authorities resumes its downward movement. During the months of this bill's Parliamentary passage there will, and rightly, be talk of constitutions, the balance of power in the state, ministerial dictatorship. But if it passes, the focus will have to shift to a lower plain. Numbers of staff in town hall and school staff room will be a arithmetical test of its success.

The Government's scheme, moreover, in its White Paper, Stream-

FROM ONE DEFEAT TO ANOTHER

When Mr Yassir Arafat left Beirut in August 1982 it was widely felt that he had succeeded in turning military defeat into moral and political victory. Though easily overrun in South Lebanon, his men had fought with surprising tenacity in Beirut against overwhelming odds, and Israel, in her attempt to crush them, had used methods which earned her the almost unanimous obloquy of world opinion. The Palestinians sailed from Beirut with their heads held high, apparently certain that their movement would live on.

That illusion of victory has cost them dear, for it enabled them to avoid facing up to the consequences of what had in fact been a serious defeat. Mr Arafat himself seemed to realise that his only hope of capitalising the moral victory in Beirut was to make clear the PLO's willingness to accept a peaceful compromise settlement with Israel, to be achieved through the good offices of the United States. He even realised the importance of not turning down President Reagan's peace plan, in spite of the fact that it ignored the PLO and ruled out an independent Palestinian state, and he worked hard to achieve a common negotiating platform with King Hussein of Jordan. But he lacked

the moral stature to spell out the implications unambiguously, and in the end he was unable to carry his own supporters with him. Then, in May this year, all the long-stifled grievances against his leadership within the movement boiled over in the mutiny in the Bekaa, which the Syrian regime, having grievances of its own, was quick to exploit.

Political gambits are subject to a law of diminishing returns. The moral benefit which Mr Arafat got from resisting the Israelis in the streets of Beirut has hardly been revived by the repeat performance staged against Syrians and fellow-Palestinians in the streets of Tripoli. True, he has succeeded in putting his opponents in the wrong. But he himself emerged from Tripoli yesterday a diminished and tawdry figure.

Even the considerable propaganda coup which he achieved in extremis by negotiating the release of 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for six Israelis was spoilt when his group claimed responsibility for the murderous attack on a Jerusalem bus, which was disowned publicly even by some known PLO supporters on the West Bank. The subsequent suggestion by his lieutenant,

PERILOUS VICTORY IN JAMAICA

Jamaica has a key role to play in President Reagan's attempts to revive both economic prosperity and American influence in the Caribbean. It is to be not only a reliable friend but also a model for neighbouring states, demonstrating that private enterprise brings better results than the state-controlled system promoted by Cuba. Mr Seaga, who became Prime Minister shortly after the election of President Reagan, has received massive economic help and political support from Washington.

Unfortunately his decision to call an early election has not brought him quite the type of endorsement he needs. Mr Michael Manley, leader of the People's National Party, ducked out, alleging unfair electoral rolls but probably also aware that in spite of severe economic difficulties Mr Seaga would still win. The result is that the country faces virtual one-party rule for the next five years, which Mr Seaga himself recognises to be unsatisfactory. He has offered opposition and neutral poli-

cians seats in the Senate but this will not make for healthy politics at a time when considerable adjustments are going to be required if Mr Seaga's programme is to be successful.

Mr Seaga led his right-wing Labour Party to power after the 1980 election dedicated to the task of reviving Jamaica's moribund economy. Poor world prices for bauxite and a sugar crop depleted by storms and lack of investment were among his problems - along with a \$1,600 foreign debt. He promised "deliverance".

It looked at first as if he might indeed deliver - and in one or two respects he has. The violence which saw 900 people shot dead in the 10 months preceding the 1980 election has given way to law and order, and tourism has picked up in consequence. He negotiated a large programme with the International Monetary Fund and began to get inflation down - to below five per cent at one stage. But the recovery has not been sustained.

arms to El Salvador continues to be uncomfortable about the regime's appalling human rights record. You, sir, not too infrequently, have published reports of massacres allegedly committed by the Salvadorean Army, the most recent, I believe, on November 18 of 118 men, women and children carried out by a "crack American-trained Salvadorean Army battalion", from which a child escaped to give witness.

Added to such events, and according to El Salvador's Human Rights Commission, the notorious "death squads" have killed an estimated 40,000 people during the past four years. The State Department has assembled lists of suspected death squad leaders which include officers in the Salvador National Guard and treasury police. Of this situation Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression

only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua". From the record one might again ask of the situations in these countries: State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua". From the record one might again ask of the situations in these countries: Marxism-Leninism is the cause, or the effect?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL

Wylde Head,
Kilmington

Warminster,
Wiltshire

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, In his letter of December 12 Sir Alfred Sherman conveys the impression that Nicaragua is fueling the guerrilla action against the purportedly democratic regime in El Salvador. Another report from David De Voss, in *Time* magazine (December 12) based in San Salvador, conflicts dramatically with Sir Alfred's.

According to De Voss, the El Salvador guerrillas not only occupy strongholds throughout the country but for the past year have relied almost totally upon captured US weapons, not upon arms smuggled in from Nicaragua, or from Cuba or the Soviet Union. The Salvador Army, it seems, lacks the will to fight the guerrillas.

Another important point that should not be allowed to escape is that Washington, even as it supplies

Royal commission for London's future Violation of human rights in Turkey

From Mr Geoffrey Alderman and others

Sir, The proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and replace it with appointed bodies must be deeply worrying to anyone with a concern for genuine local democracy and long-established constitutional conventions.

A constitutional change of such importance is out of keeping with its brief, last-minute inclusion in the Conservative Manifesto. The issue has not been clearly discussed in public, nor did it play a significant role in the election campaign.

Constitutional changes of such magnitude must be based on a large measure of agreement. The right course now, as in the past, is to establish a royal commission to make proposals for more effective elected local government in London - and in the six metropolitan areas too - and for Parliament to consider its report and to take account of the views of the citizens both in London and the metropolitan boroughs. A royal commission preceded the ending of the LCC and the establishment of the GLC.

The Government proposes, during the transition period, to replace a democratically elected council with a body of substitute councillors nominated by the 32 London boroughs without any further election, either at the GLC or borough level. The political composition of the boroughs is well known. Not merely does it threaten the principle of elected local councils, but it threatens to bring fundamental constitutional arrangements into an angry and uncertain partisan

fight. The abolition of the GLC would make London the only capital city in the civilized world without a directly elected governing council. A century of democratic local control of London-wide services would end and a basic shift of power to the central state would begin.

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Yours sincerely,
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TREVOR SMITH (Queen Mary College),
A. D. G. SMART (University College, London),
As from: Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Malet Street, WC1.
December 15.

The Government's scheme, moreover, in its White Paper, Stream-

lining the Cities, parcels out the common services of the GLC to a series of joint boards, commissions, trusts and quangos or else dumps them piecemeal on the London boroughs. The key functions of transport and strategic planning will be subject to direct rule from Whitehall.

It seems that the citizens of London are not to be trusted by Government to make their own arrangements. Also such a fragmented arrangement is far more complex and confusing to the public and will be more expensive than the relatively simple structure it purports to streamline.

No one can avoid the conclusion that there is neither theory nor principle at work here, but simply a short-term political consideration. That matter should be settled by the electorate in April 1985, as the majority of Conservative councillors on the GLC themselves appear to want.

No one pretends that the GLC is perfect or that it could not sensibly be improved. But there are constitutional ways of achieving such improvements provided the necessary time is allowed for adequate study. Violation of these principles would be a bad day for the future of parliamentary democracy in Great Britain. A royal commission is the obvious way forward now.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 20: The Lord MacLennan of Beoch had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

His Excellency the Hon Charles H. Price II was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Michael Cawelti Minister for Economic Affairs; Mr Turner of Orpico (Counselor for Agricultural Affairs); Mr Philip W. Arnold (Counselor for Public Affairs); Mr Alan D. Wolfe (Counselor for Programme Co-operation); Mr David C. Fields (Counselor for Administrative Affairs); Mr Robert W. Maul (Counselor for Consular Affairs); Mr Richard L. McCormick (Counselor for Political Affairs); and Colonel Alan B. Renshaw (Deputy Attaché).

Mrs Price had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Dr John Rutherford and Mrs George West were received in formal audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Court of St James's.

Sir Andrew Huxley had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Sir Michael Pippett had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, this morning attended Special General Meeting of the Association at the National Westminster Tower, London, EC2.

Mr Brian McGrail was in attendance.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Judge Rodney Box, QC, will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Thursday, January 26, 1984, at 5pm.

Sir Graham and Lady Rowdon will not be sending Christmas cards this year and would like to take this opportunity of wishing all their friends a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Arnottage, 77; Sir Arthur Benson, 76 Air Commandant Dame Jean Brumet, 71; Lord Caccia, 78; Mrs Chris Evert Lloyd, 29; Vice-Admiral Sir Raymond Hawkins, 74; Lord Justice Lawton, 72; Mr David McFall, 64; Sir Leslie H. Martin, 83; Mr W. M. Milligan, 76; Mr Merlin Minshall, 77; the Most Rev John A. Murphy, 76; Sir John Nabarro, 66; Sir Kenneth O'Connor, 87; Mr Anthony Powell, 78; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, 62; Mr Walter Spangher, 40; Mr Greville Starkey, 44; Mr James Tye, 62; Dr Kurt Waldheim, 65.

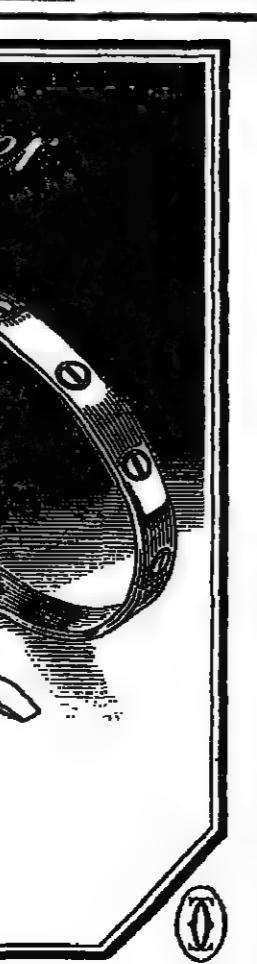
Dinner

Turners' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, was the guest of honour at a dinner which was given in Apothecaries' Hall last night by the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company. The Master, Mr G. M. Reeves, presided and other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Mr H. S. Astor and Mr J. E. Borrett, Upper Warden. Among those present were the Master Cutler, the Master of the Apothecaries' Society, the President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Director-General of REME.

Emanuel School

The governing body of Emanuel School has appointed Mr P. F. Thomson-Somers as Headmaster of St Paul's School, to succeed Headmaster of Emanuel School from September 1, 1984, on the retirement of the present headmaster, Mr P. Hendry.



les must de Cartier boutique
HARVEY NICHOLS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW3.
TELEPHONE 01-235 5000.



Palace mission: Mr Charles Price II, the new US Ambassador, leaving for Buckingham Palace yesterday with his wife Carol to present his letters of credence to the Queen. (Photograph: John Vood)

Art sales have boom season

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's, Christie's, and Phillips, the three London-based international art auctioneers,

closed the gap with Sotheby's, long the market leader.

Mr John Floyd, chairman of Christie's, said yesterday that the art market had progressively gathered pace during 1983,

finishing with the remarkable autumn result.

The prospects looked good for 1984, he said, with some outstanding sales coming.

He drew attention to a

January Old Master picture sale

in New York, which contains

a group of 10 still lives from the collection of Paul Mellon and

two Turner's that are expected to

make more than £1m each.

New York has contributed

the largest increase in turnover to

Christie's autumn figures.

Sales there made 70 per cent

more than in 1982 which had itself been sharply up on 1981.

A year ago Christie's was

picking up business from

Sotheby's in New York; it

had beaten all its own records to sell

£128m, while Phillips has

beaten all its own records to sell

£42m worth of artistic wares.

Sotheby's figures should be

seen more as a recovery than a

major advance. In dollars they

are back to the turnover of their

record 1980 season and in

sterling they have comfortably

topped it.

Christie's has been advancing

strongly over the intervening

three years and has nearly

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Prudential sets up 'own' London broker

Prudential-Bache Securities, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, world's biggest insurance company, is setting up its "own" London Stock Exchange member firm. The nucleus of it are Mr Ashley Down, head of corporate finance at James Capel one of London's leading stockbroking firms, and his deputy in the same department, Mr Christopher de Boer. Mr Down had expressed a wish some time ago to leave the partnership for personal reasons. Mr de Boer resigned on Monday. "Their going is a disappointment to us," was Capel's comment, "but we still have 63 partners left."

Prudential-Bache will own 29 per cent of the new firm the Stock Exchange describes as "a joint venture." That is the maximum permitted under Stock Exchange rules but Prudential-Bache has an option to acquire the balance if and when the rules are changed. In the interim most of any profits will accrue to the American "junior" partner.

The new firm will offer UK and Continental research and corporate finance services to British institutions and companies and to Prudential-Bache clients wherever they may be. To that end the new firm will recruit among other firms, bearing in mind also that the maximum it can take in captive commissions from Prudential-Bache is 20 per cent of the total.

Mr Jim Barton, head of Prudential-Bache international and commodity divisions in New York said the new firm would be recruiting 25 to 30 staff almost immediately, who would be offered the normal profit-sharing and bonus schemes. It would be capitalized, initially, at £500,000 although substantially more would be made available as the business grows. It would be incorporated as a limited corporate member.

Britain's leading financial institutions, have some £300 million under management of which 37.5 billions is thought to be invested abroad. "Obviously as our research capabilities grow," Mr Barton went on, "we hope to attract substantial business, both going into Britain and coming out. Hopefully a lot of it."

Prudential-Bache traditionally had built

its own businesses rather than bought into existing companies. "We could not wait for the rules to change to allow us a majority holding. We have hired professional expertise, at least we believe so, to build a new company brick-by-brick."

What many leading London brokers had feared, the poaching of senior staff by foreign rivals, has arrived quicker than expected.

A company with the Prudential's strength behind it should not be long in establishing itself as a power in London. Ironically the Prudential took over and restored Bache, Halsey Stewart in 1981 after Wall Street had undergone the same form of restructuring now beginning in London. It hopes that it has set an example for other American companies.

By the same token Prudential-Bache's initiative may accelerate decisions among British bankers, brokers and other financial institutions who are either huddled together in discussions about possible umbilical ties or carefully examining their navels for directions which way to jump. The Bank of England, in its new role as Stock Exchange monitor as well as its traditional role as the City's keeper, is naturally concerned. In the December Quarterly Bulletin the Bank sees scope for a greater efficiency.

The Bank accepts that "foreign participation" in London will increase, but "it is important that this should be matched by the international involvement of strong groupings of British-owned institutions, which will no doubt emerge."

The Bank has shown no sign so far of positive discrimination in favour of domestic parties in the reshuffles taking place. But it is relieved that two of the five important stockbrokers have already opted for home links.

Akroyd with S. G. Warburg, Smith Brothers with NM Rothschild. The Bank's priorities include ensuring adequate investor protection and a market in which it can sell government debt. The name to conjure with in the gilt-edged market is Wedd Durlacher. It will surely announce a new partner soon, and it must be all Lombard Street to a China orange that the preferred institution will be British, not foreign.

Dog-days lose their bite

The stock market was predicting as much a year ago and official statistics are now proving the point: company profits are recovering sharply from the dogdays of the recession. The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin records that profits rose by nearly 50 per cent between the first halves of 1981 (the pit of the recession) and 1983. Figures from the Central Statistical Office yesterday suggest that this trend is still accelerating: industrial and commercial company profits were nearly one-third higher in the third quarter compared with a year earlier. If you strip out North Sea operations the recovery is even more impressive. Profits rose by 35 per cent in real terms between the first half of 1981 and the first half of this year, after a similar fall in the previous three years.

It would be wrong to infer from these comparisons that everything is coming up roses in the corporate sector. For a start a 35 per cent rise in profits after a 35 per cent fall does not leave the sector where it started five years ago. It is still well short of the starting line.

Companies have been benefiting from the rise in output while big gains in productivity mainly due to shedding people, have helped to keep down unit labour costs. That said, the real rate of profitability, probably back over 6 per cent compared with 2.3 per cent in early 1981, is still low; lower not only than in the 1960s but also than in 1978, and according to the Bank, "well below the level necessary for a healthy rate of investment".

The Bank nonetheless is quite optimistic about an imminent recovery in investment because of industry's improved profitability and much stronger financial position - company liquidity is now as strong as at almost any time in the last 10 years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7.5m rights issue by Carlton

Carlton Communications, one of Britain's leading independent television production companies, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue to raise £7.5m net at 300p a share.

At that price the issue means an 85p discount to the market's ruling level. Money from the issue will help Carlton to explore actively the American market, which has more than 1,000 television stations and accounts for 50 per cent of the world television market.

Carlton also announced a £2.7m profit for the year compared with £1.7m last year. Mr Michael Green, chairman, said: "All divisions showed good growth."

Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were slightly higher in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial average up 1.5 points at 1,246. About 8 million shares had been traded.

Senior partners of Conrad Ribbats, the big commercial estate company, are in negotiations to buy out the major part of the 50 per cent shareholding owned by British Land and a deal could be struck by March. British Land yesterday declared its first interim dividend in more than a decade and reported a 6 per cent rise in half-year pretax profits to £3.6m.

Investor's Notebook, page 16

Rank Xerox has been released by the Government from some undertakings relating to the sale of plain paper copiers imposed after a 1976 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found some Rank Xerox trading practices were against the public interest. Since then a big growth in competition in copiers has eroded Rank's earlier dominance of the market.

Sarasin rescue 'should go to Dunlop board'

By Wayne Lintott

Samuel Montagu, merchant bank advisers to PEGI Malaysia Berhad, the group that holds just under 7 per cent of Dunlop, said yesterday that the rescue proposal from Sarasin International Securities for Dunlop should, in the first instance, be made to the board of Dunlop.

Sarasin had said that its £40m rescue plan depended on the support of the PEGI group. Sarasin proposes to inject £40m cash into a new company, which would then make an all share offer for Dunlop.

The statement said that PEGI fully supported Sir Maurice Hodson, the chairman of Dunlop. But the PEGI representatives in London for this week's Dunlop board meeting, made

no comment on whether they would meet with the Sarasin representatives to discuss the proposals.

Sarasin has had informal talks with Sir Maurice over the proposals, but no statement was issued on the conclusion.

Samuel Montagu also clarified PEGI's position over the now defunct plans for PEGI to buy out Dunlop's Malaysian interests.

The bankers said that when the £55m deal to acquire Dunlop's Malaysian Industries failed last Friday it was mutually agreed that the proposed transactions should not proceed.

PEGI wishes to make clear that there are at present no debts outstanding from PEGI to Dunlop.

International Paint is being advised by S G Warburg.

Pattern of foreign investment in Britain is changing

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been warned in a new study of multinational investment strategies that it would be unjustified to devote substantial resources towards attracting European investment into Britain over the next decade.

All the signs, say the study, are that higher levels of fixed, direct investment from EEC countries will be directed to non-European destinations and that continental European investment in Britain largely is aimed at supplying this market, rather than acting as a supply point for wider market areas.

The investigation, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office, the Welsh Office and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, is the work of Professor Neil Hood and Mr Stephen Youngman.

project directors at Strathclyde University, and two project researchers, Dr Alan Reeves and Mrs Margaret Milner.

Their 389-page report includes a detailed survey of 140 British or Irish-based affiliates of American or European multinational enterprises.

The investment that is likely to come to Britain in the next decade may increasingly be in a different form, with greater emphasis on joint ventures, licensing and other cooperative forms of involvement, says the report.

The most substantial opportunity, say the authors, lies with Japan: "The size of this opportunity and the speed with which it develops is, however, dependent upon trends in trade policy and in exchange rates."

Since Japanese direct investment in developed countries is

a relatively recent phenomenon, the report finds difficulty in predicting the form it will take, even if a substantial flow towards Europe begins.

"Elsewhere, Japanese investment has shown a propensity towards joint ventures, but this is largely in developing countries.

"Other low-risk strategies may be expected in Japanese investment into Europe in the light of international production experience within many Japanese corporations."

Elsewhere, the report says that British agencies should conduct a comprehensive study of the relative effectiveness of the British inward investment.

A study is important, it says, since a growing proportion of world trade and technological innovation is associated with the direct investment process.

"Irrespective of the desirable effect placed on small-firm development in the next decade in the United Kingdom, inward direct investment will remain critical to the health of manufacturing industry."

The report shows that by last year, foreign multinationals with foreign banks has been growing rapidly but manufacturing investment from abroad, which rose considerably in the 1970s, has been slowing down and between 1980 and last year increased only 9.3 per cent to £16,500m.

"Multinational Investment Strategies in the British Isles," HMSO (£15.95).

Lloyds spends £23m to lift stake in Royal Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Financial Correspondent

Lloyds Bank has spent £23m on increasing its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland Group from 16.4 per cent to 21.3 per cent, but denied any plans to make a bid. Lloyds said yesterday that the move was aimed at strengthening its position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house.

Lloyds, whose chairman is Sir Jeremy Morse, owns 60.3 per cent of the finance house at present and has long wanted to buy Royal Bank's 39.3 per cent stake. The two banks have been unable to agree a deal and Mr Brian Pitman, group chief executive of Lloyds, said it was worried that a third party would enter the fray.

"You can see that if a third party did come in and acquire a part of the Royal Bank of Scotland, this could give us some difficulty in acquiring the remaining part of Lloyds & Scottish. We feel that a larger holding in Royal Bank would help to secure our position," he said.

Although Lloyds approached Royal Bank with a view of taking it over before Royal Bank agreed to merge with



Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish

Standard Chartered in 1981, Mr Pitman was adamant that a bid was not on the cards, although he did not rule out the possibility of buying more shares.

Royal Bank's 1981 merger plans with Standard Chartered were thwarted when the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank put in a £500m bid and both takeovers were subsequently blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, the shake-up in financial markets and suspicion

executive of Royal Bank, said yesterday there were no talks going on about Lloyds & Scottish with Lloyds Bank. "They have always wanted Lloyds & Scottish. We have made no secret of the fact that if we could agree on a price we would sell," he said. He added that Lloyds & Scottish must be looking for improved profits and Royal Bank would not want to sell at the bottom.

The finance house's profits tumbled from a peak of £29.2m pretax in the year to September 30 1981 to £10.8m the following year. But in the first half of 1982-83 profits picked up from £6.5m to £10.6m.

Lloyds won control of Lloyds & Scottish in March 1981 when it launched a bid valuing the group at £240m, immediately after Standard Chartered and Royal Bank announced merger terms.

Lloyds rapidly took its existing stake above 50 per cent through market purchases and subsequently agreed terms to buy Royal Bank's stake once the group was taken over by Standard Chartered.

Royal Bank has consistently denied any knowledge of a predator and been unable to predict any light on the sharp movements in its share price in recent months.

Mr Sidney Procter, chief

of Royal Bank, said: "The British authorities might now look more kindly on a takeover has helped to revive bid speculation recently."

This was one of the reasons

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Surprise payout fails to lift British Land shares

Mr John Rithlau's British Land the property and industrial group, has an interim dividend. It is a significant event for the company because it is the first half-year payout that British Land shareholders have received in more than a decade.

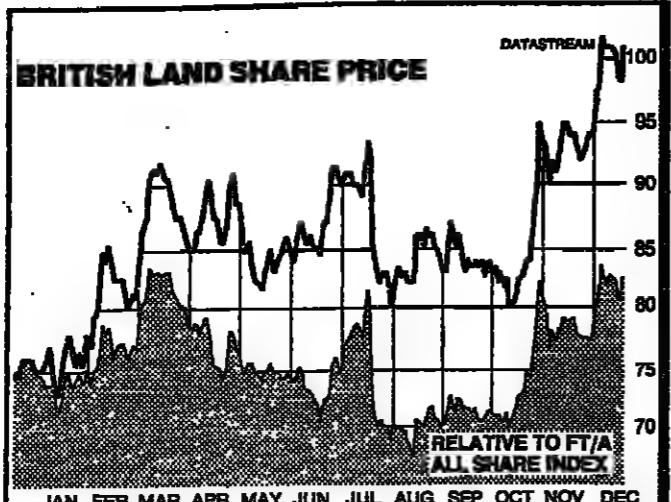
Assuming a same again final of 1.25p is paid, the interim of 0.5p implies a 40 per cent rise in the full year payout. But British Landshare price failed to respond to this news yesterday and closed unchanged at 101p and the stock market remains as uncertain as ever about the direction the company is taking.

Half year pretax profits were up 6 per cent from £3.4m to £3.6m after a rise before interest of 16 per cent. The company has been spending heavily so the sharp rise in bank borrowing costs is not surprising.

In the United States, Growth Realty, which has now changed its name to British Land of America, made a net gain in the quarter year to the end of September after the reorganization started 18 months ago when British Land acquired a minority interest in the company. British Land has also spent heavily on improving the length of leases on its properties.

Profits from the industrial division were a little better at about £1.1m during the half year and gross rental income was up £1m at £10.1m.

The profit from property and dealing in securities was roughly the same overall, with the fall in returns from trading offset by



better housebuilding and property trading profits.

The group continues to rely heavily on these trading profits as a source of revenue. Last year they accounted for about 42 per cent of group pretax profits and are likely to be only a little lower this time.

The exposure to dealing revenue is just one of the worrying features at British Land. Another is the apparent lack of direction at the group.

The company has recently entered ventures as hotel building with Comfort Hotels, a new unit trust group with Mr Brian Banks, partly funding a Finsbury Square development and taking a 15 per cent stake in Dares Estates.

Until some strategy is put forward to explain these and other moves, the share will continue to look vulnerable despite trading at a discount to net assets of 39 per cent, which is well above the sector average.

Stenhouse

Shareholders of Stenhouse Holdings have until tomorrow afternoon to decide on the merits of one of the City's most peculiar takeover attempts for many years.

The £53m bid for Stenhouse by Reed Stenhouse, its 49 per cent-owned Canadian subsidiary, has been an embarrassment to the boards of both companies, particularly for those with seats in both boardrooms.

Both companies agree that a merger is the only sensible answer to the problems posed by the peculiar relationship between the two, but they

cannot agree on sensible terms. Stenhouse Holdings has, for many years, been little more than a small investment management office in Glasgow watching over the Reed Stenhouse investment and holdings in Noble Grossart, the merchant bank, and Stenhouse Syndicates, the Lloyd's insurance broking firm.

Reed Stenhouse, in contrast, is a thriving Canadian insurance business which has been hampered in its development by its status as a subsidiary of Stenhouse Holdings.

Despite the attractions of the Reed Stenhouse offer of one Reed Stenhouse ordinary share, plus 20p cash, for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares, the Stenhouse Holdings board refuses to let the Reed board get away with a deal which favours Canadian shareholders.

They argue that the offer provides substantial benefits to Reed Stenhouse shareholders at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders. While the Stenhouse board is prepared to accept on half-way house which would be of benefit to both sets of shareholders it will not accept a situation whereby the earnings of Stenhouse increased by 11 per cent.

Reed Stenhouse says that Stenhouse Holdings is unable to offer any alternative to the Reed Stenhouse bid and that no serious interest has emerged from another potential bidder.

Early indications are that the initial offer from Reed Stenhouse will fail, winning support from 40 per cent of shareholders at best.

Cifer, the Melksham, Wiltshire, designer and manufacturer of microcomputers and microprocessor-based computer-video terminals, which joined the USM in June, reports pretax profits of £1.352m for the year to September 30, 1983 (£1982.8£51.000). At the time of issuing its prospectus, Cifer forecast profit before tax would not be less than £1.35m. As declared in the prospectus, the company does not intend recommending a dividend, but still expects to pay one for the current year.

Sheafbank Property Trust

has agreed to buy Gradeland Securities, a Manchester property company. Price: 4.54 million new ordinary shares. Gradeland's net assets of £727,000 at March 31. After takeover and proposed rights issue, sellers of Gradeland will hold 40.2 per cent of Sheafbank's enlarged ordinary capital. Sheafbank proposes to reduce its issued capital from £1.2m, divided into 25p shares, to £482,000 in 10p shares. Board is conditionally proposing a rights issue of two new ordinary shares for every five shares held at 16p each, and will raise about £308,000 before expenses.

Baileys of Yorkshire: Half-year to October 29, 1983, compared with half-year to September 30, 1982. Figures in £000s. Group turnover 77,306 (£6,568). Group profit 529 (£519) after all charges, interest 71 (15), depreciation 176 (151) and tax 77 (140). EPS - basic 6.19p (6.07p) and fully diluted 4.38p (4.3p). Interim dividend unchanged at 0.5p.

Memory Computer: Six months to Sept. 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000s. Turnover 4,835 (3,541). Pretax profit 510 (340). Interim payment 1p net (nil last time).

Scotts Restaurants: Half-year to June 30, 1983. Turnover to £1.56m, (£1.37m). Pretax profit £115,000 (£76,000).

Real Time Control: Half-year to Sept. 30, 1983. No interim payment. Directors intend to recommend a net dividend of 2p for full year. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,754 (1,363). Pretax profit 415 (407).

Belgrave (Blackheath): Half-year to July 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,317 (1,567). Profit before tax 18 (loss 48).

Alliance Investment: Half-year to Oct. 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Franked income 452 (396). Unfranked income 523 (456). Management expenses and interest 563 (272). Pretax profit 412 (580). Interim payment effectively unchanged at 0.5p a share.

The President's budget deficit has been associated, as the conventional logic would imply, with a serious deterioration in the American balance of payment. But it has also coincided with a phase of remarkable dollar strength on the foreign exchanges. The dollar's behaviour has been helpful for the control of American inflation rather than the reverse.

The dollar's strength is generally regarded as a puzzle, but there is agreement that heavy capital inflows to the US have been an essential support.

Investment money is being channelled towards the US, financing the current account deficit and enabling the American people to enjoy an armaments boom, an import boom and a consumption boom without paying the bill.

If this continues until the

Economics Commentary by Tim Congdon

Triumph of the old fogeys

The USA's trade and current account position, 1975-82

All figs in \$ billion

	Merchandise trade balance	Invisibles balance	of which investment income	Current account
1975	9.0	9.3	12.8	18.3
1976	-9.3	13.6	16.9	4.4
1977	-30.9	16.8	18.0	-14.1
1978	-33.8	19.0	20.6	-14.8
1979	-27.3	26.8	31.2	-0.5
1980	-28.3	25.8	29.9	1.5
1981	-27.9	32.4	33.0	4.5
1982	-36.3	28.2	28.7	-8.1

Source: US Department of Commerce

would have greeted it with derision.

Today, President Eisenhower looks increasingly wise and fiscal fine-tuning with many derivatives, increasingly silly.

High-powered economic theorists are now trying to develop analytically rigorous

demonstrations that deficits have very unfavourable long-run effects on the economy. Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisors, has produced some of his original work in this area.

But President Reagan is not interested. A budget deficit of more than \$170 billion is in prospect for the 1984 fiscal year.

Well, remember, balancing the budget is not of interest merely to ourselves. Our friends, the nations with whom we trade, the nations that are increasing using the dollar as a medium of exchange, they are interested in the knowledge that

they were clever, but also because they seemed honest and right.

His attitude towards fiscal policy illustrates the point effectively. At a news conference on April 4, 1959, this is how he answered a question on why he attached so much

importance to eliminating the budget deficit:

"Well, remember, balancing the budget is not of interest merely to ourselves. Our friends, the nations with whom we trade, the nations that are increasing using the dollar as a medium of exchange, they are interested in the knowledge that

they were clever, but also because they seemed honest and right.

His indifference is not altogether surprising. When a country runs a large budget deficit it also normally has a large balance-of-payments deficit.

The salient feature is that, while the trade position was sliding steadily for eight years, the current account was rescued by a rising surplus on invisibles. In particular, there was a strong improvement in investment income. This reflected the

profits and interest the United States received from the substantial body of foreign assets it built up in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. Without these receipts there would have been

a current account deficit of about \$200 billion over the 1975-82 period instead of an approximate balance.

In 1983, the trade gap has widened sharply. The trade deficit is likely to total \$70 billion and the current account deficit almost \$40 billion.

The disturbing possibility

now emerging is that the surplus on investment income will be eliminated and replaced by a deficit. The reason is simple.

Financial policy has become so

deviant and the current account deficit has reached such proportions that foreigners are accumulating many more assets in the United States than Americans are accumulating abroad.

The foreigners expect an income on their investments. If the current account deficit continues, the United States will eventually become a net debtor to other countries.

By then the transparency of President Reagan's fiscal programme will be obvious to all. The capital flows in the dollar-denominated assets have been largely motivated by the common perception of the United States as a safe haven in a troubled world. But, if it were to become a significant net debtor, perceptions would change.

The American government would be in an awkward spot. Once the capital inflows stopped, the budget deficit would have to be financed wholly from internal sources instead of to a large extent from abroad. It is difficult to see how, in view of the inadequacy of domestic savings flows, this could be done without monetization of debt - and so return to rapid inflation.

When President Eisenhower wrote his memoirs in 1965 he felt he should respond to complaints that his fiscal policy

Eisenhower looks wiser and fiscal fine-tuning silly

had been too restrictive. In his view, "critics overlooked the inflationary psychology which prevailed during the mid-fifties and which I thought it necessary to defeat. In 1957, for example, consumer prices were rising at an unacceptably high annual rate of 3.2 per cent. Ten years of this could devalue the dollar more than 30 per cent while it the rate accelerated, we would have had an entirely intolerable situation on our hands".

He continued: "The anti-inflation battle is never-ending, though I fear that in 1959 the public was apathetic, at least uninformed, regarding this issue. This attitude caused me to recall a laconic comment of Winston Churchill when someone asked him during World War Two what the allies were fighting for: 'If we stop,' he replied, 'you will find out.'

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 9%

Barclays 9%

BCI 9%

Citibank Savings 10%

Continental Crds 9%

C. Hoare & Co. 9%

Lloyds Bank 9%

Midland Bank 9%

Nat Westminster 9%

TSB 9%

Williams & Glyn's 9%

* Mortage base rates.

† 7-day deposit rates of under £10,000. 8%v. £10,000 & over 9%.

Source: City News Service.

Figures in £m.

Stoddard is picking itself off the floor

By Vivien Goldsmith

Stoddard Holdings, the troubled Scottish carpet manufacturer, is inching its way towards profitability. It cut pre-tax losses in the first six months of the year from more than £1m to £397,000.

Mr Gordon Hay, the chairman, said the company could well be trading in the black by the end of the financial year. But the pre-tax figures would probably still be in the red.

The trading loss for the first half was cut back from £543,000 to £164,000. The group is ahead of the target set by a three-year recovery plan put into operation by Mr Hay last year.

"We are in front of our timescale, so we are hoping to cut it down to 2.5 years or something of that order," said Mr Hay.

Lloyds names money market treasurer

APPOINTMENTS

Lloyds Bank: Mr David Turner has been appointed treasurer, responsible for the bank's money-market division. He succeeds Mr Albert Agar who has retired.

Freemasons: Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman, will retire after the annual meeting on May 31, next. Mr John Broome has been made a director from January 1. He will be deputy chairman until taking over Mr Rampton as chairman on June 1, next.

Mathermans International: Mr Jeremy Campbell succeeds Mr Leslie Sari as secretary from January 1.

Charterhall: Mr Maxwell F. Shepherd and Mr John A. Brimley are being appointed directors from January 1. Mr Julius Levinkind is retiring as a director but will continue as a consultant. Mr Robert C. O. Hellyer becomes secretary. Mr Keith R. Holder is being

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		N.Y.	
Rubber in 100 lb bales		T/C	
Coffee, beans, sugar in pounds per		ALUMINUM	1088-93
Ghee-all in lbs per metric ton.		Three months	1110-1028
BRUNER	847-59	Four months	1090-1020
Aug/Sept	847-59	Cash	1088-95
Jan/Mich	846-70	Three months	1088-95
Feb/Mar	846-70	Tone: Steady	1028
Mar/Apr	846-70	Three months	1028
Apr/May	846-70	Tone: Steady	1028
May/Jun	846-70	Three months	1028
Jun/July	846-70	Tone: Steady	1028
SUGAR	211.60-212.40	Dec	376.00-379.00
Mar	211.60-212.40	Jan	386.00-389.20
May	212.20-222.20	Feb	386.00-389.20
Oct	212.20-222.20	Mar	402.00-402.20
Mar	212.20-222.20	Apr	402.00-402.20
COCOA	269.00-269.20	May	402.00-402.20
Mar	269.00-269.20	June	402.00-402.20
COFFEE	202.00-202.20	July	402.00-402.20
Jan	202.00-202.20	Aug	402.00-402.20
Mar	202.00-202.20	Sept	402.00-402.20
May	202.00-202.20	Oct	402.00-402.20
Oct	202.00-202.20	Nov	402.00-402.20
Mar	202.00-202.20	Dec	402.00-402.20
COKE GIL	244.75-250.00	Jan	402.00-402.20
Mar	244.75-250.00	Feb	402.00-402.20
May	244.75-250.00	Mar	402.00-402.20
Oct	244.75-250.00	Apr	402.00-402.20
Mar	244.75-250.00	May	402.00-402.20
COKE OIL	220.00-230.00	June	402.00-402.20
Mar	220.00-230.00	July	402.00-402.20
Oct	220.00-230.00	Aug	402.00-402.20
Mar	220.00-230.00	Sept	402.00-402.20
COULDON	220.00-230.00	Oct	402.00-402.20
Mar	220.00-230.00	Nov	402.00-402.20
Oct	220.00-230.00	Dec	402.00-402.20
LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	1857-78	Jan	402.00-402.20
Mar	1857-78	Feb	402.00-402.20
Oct	1857-78	Mar	402.00-402.20
Mar	1857-78	Apr	402.00-402.20
Oct	1857-78	May	402.00-402.20
LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET	211.60-212.40	June	402.00-402.20
Mar	211.60-212.40	July	402.00-402.20
Oct	211.60-212.40	Aug	402.00-402.20
Mar	211.60-212.40	Sept	402.00-402.20
Oct	211.60-212.40	Oct	402.00-402.20
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	1078-79	Nov	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Dec	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Jan	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Feb	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Mar	402.00-402.20
LONDON HIGH GRADE	1078-79	Apr	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	May	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	June	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	July	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Aug	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Sept	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Oct	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Nov	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Dec	402.00-402.20
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	1078-79	Jan	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Feb	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Mar	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Apr	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	May	402.00-402.20
LONDON HIGH GRADE	1078-79	June	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	July	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Aug	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Sept	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Oct	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Nov	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Dec	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Jan	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Feb	402.00-402.20
Mar	1078-79	Mar	402.00-402.20
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Mar	1078-79	May	402.00-402.20
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Mar	1078-79	July	402.00-402.20
Oct	1078-79	Aug	

SKIING

Stenmark's Cup ambition lifted by another victory

Madonna di Campiglio, (Reuter) - The triple World cup winner Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden returned to the scene of his first World Cup win 1974 to score a clear victory in the slalom race here yesterday, to stay on course to achieve his aim of winning the slalom world cup this season. His second win in the discipline in just over a week put him top of the slalom standings with 50 points.

"I'm in good shape," Stenmark said. "My motivation is good because I didn't train too much. At my age you don't need it."

Stenmark, aged 27, dominated both legs of the event. Leading after the first leg, the Swede coolly produced the fastest second leg to clock a total winning time of 1 min 36.89 sec for his 74th World Cup victory. The pre-race rankings were upset by the Austrian Robert Zoller. A surprise second in the first leg,

Zoller, high number starter confirmed his return to fitness after a legament injury last season by holding on to his place despite almost running into a gate near the bottom of the course.

Third place was taken by Bulgarian Peter Popangelov, who improved on his seventh place in the first leg, and the Italian Alex Giorgi delighted the crowd with an aggressive second run that pushed him into fourth place ahead of the Swede Sig Strand, who dropped from third place on the first leg.

Notable absences were the American twins Phil and Steve Mahre, who returned home last week to prepare for their traditional burst of form at the end of January.

The steep course, dropping 170 metres, was too much for the Swiss prodigy. Peter Zurbriggen, aged 20, who stood to pick up vital points from the

RESULTS: 1. Stenmark (Swe) 1min 36.89sec; 2. R. Zoller (Aust) 1:37.02; 3. P. Popangelov (Bul) 1:37.58; 4. A. Giorgi (Ital) 1:37.78; 5. S. Strand (Nor) 1:38.02; 6. J. Jennings (GBR) 1:38.20; 7. M. Axelson (Swe) 1:38.67; 8. F. Bozzi (Ital) 1:38.84; 9. A. Wenzel (Aust) 1:38.85; 10. O. Kostane (Swe) 1:38.87; 11. F. Bozzi (Ital) 1:38.88; 12. J. Jennings (GBR) 1:39.79; 13. R. Zoller (Aust) 1:39.84; 14. J. Gaspari (Ital) 1:39.85; 15. T. Zurbriggen (Switzerland) 1:39.86; 16. G. Lanza (Ital) 1:39.87; 17. R. Zoller (Aust) 1:39.88; 18. P. Popangelov 1:39.89; 19. S. Strand 1:39.90; 20. F. Kitzel and Gruber 1:39.91.

OVERALL STANDINGS: 1. Zurbriggen (70); 2. Stenmark (68); 3. Wenzel 32; equal 4. Kitzel and Gruber 32.

● Hans Austria (AFP) - The women's World Cup downhill race, which was in doubt because of adverse weather conditions, will go ahead today as planned. Mild weather and rain had earlier threatened a change in the programme for both today and Thursday. However, after inspecting the cause the jury decided that racing can take place.

Had the conditions continued, the downhill would have been put back 24 hours, which would have meant the cancellation of tomorrow's giant slalom.

● Toronto (Reuter) - The Canadian skiers have returned home for their Christmas break from early season races in Europe confident they can win the World Cup downhill title. Todd Brooker leads the standings after twice finishing runner-up in the early races and he said: "I am having a lot more fun. I've also eased off a little in training to save a little for race days."

The former World Cup downhill champion, Steve Podborski, is fifth. "Knowing that the pre-Christmas races really haven't been ideal for our abilities - relatively slow, soft snow, relatively easy - is all the better," he said.

FOOTBALL: First division: Aston Villa v Burnley (7.30); Blackpool v West Bromwich (7.45); Bolton v Newcastle (7.05); Nottingham Forest v Liverpool (7.45); Port Vale v Middlesbrough (7.05).

FOOTBALL: Combination: Leicester v Birmingham (2.30); Oxford v Cheltenham (2.30); Swindon (2.30); Oxford v Cheltenham (2.30); Birmingham v Swindon (2.30); Cheltenham v Birmingham (2.30).

FA TRIPSY: Third qualifying round and replay: Middlesbrough v Dorchester.

NETBALL: Second division: Middlesbrough v Hartlepool.

WHEEVE LEAGUE: Northampton v Wimborne.

RUGBY UNION

CROSS COUNTRY: East Anglian League (7.05); Newcastle v Gloucester (7.05); Pontypool v Tredegar (7.05).

OTHER SPORT

SWIMMING: Public schools singles competition (Queen's Club, West Kensington, 9.00).



Stenmark: fastest man on two legs

TODAY'S FIXTURES

SKIING CONDITIONS							
	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Run to Off Piste	Run to Resort	Weather	(5 pm)	°C
Aross	45	60	Good	Powder	Fine	-2	
Grindelwald	10	30	Worn	Varied	Closed	Fine	+1
Igls	5	65	Worn	Varied	Closed	Fair	+2
Isels 2000	45	100	Good	Crust	Good	Cloud	0
Kitzbühel	5	60	Good	Varied	Closed	Fine	-1
Mürren	45	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Le Plagne	10	50	Good	Powder	Fair	Cloudy	-5
Seselv	30	50	Fair	Spring	Poor	Fog	1
St Anton	35	85	Powder	Fair	Fair	-	-1
Tignes	65	105	Good	Fair	Good	Fine	0
Andora	50	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	-4
						L limited runs more snow needed	
						In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.	

MOTOR RACING

The 1984 Lotus has a leaner look

By John Blundell

"There will be no excuses, there are no unknowns and we have to deliver." That was the message of Peter Warr, general manager of John Player Team Lotus, at the unveiling in Paris yesterday of the Lotus Grand Prix challenger for 1984, the JPS 95T.

"It's approximately a year since the death of Colin Chapman and, not surprisingly, we have been through a somewhat traumatic 12 months. The character of the team has had to change but we have found our new identity and we have our new style of management."

The cars which Nigel Mansell and Elio De Angelis will be driving next

year looks superficially similar to the 94Ts they replaced in the latter part of this year. However, they are very different beneath the skin. Gerard Ducarouge has designed a car smaller, lighter and slimmer than its predecessor.

Part of the size reduction has

been brought about by the

restriction in the maximum fuel

tankage to 220 litres, but the much neater packaging of the latest version of the Renault turbo-charged engine, with its turbo-chargers and intercoolers mounted vertically, has also contributed to the leaner look.

The Lotus team have decided to

return to Goodyear tyres and the 95T has been fitted with Italian-made Brembo brakes all round. The suspension is basically similar to that of the previous car except that the rocker-arm front layout has been replaced with a pull-rod system which offers cleaner aerodynamics.

Nigel Mansell, frustrated at the team's lack of wins this year, was full of enthusiasm yesterday. "Peter Warr has put a great package together for 1984 and Gerard Ducarouge's new design looks like it will be a winner. He has taken full advantage of the new fuel regulations and he has worked hard on the aerodynamics."

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM £2.25 a line
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OBITUARIES The deadline is 5pm on Friday for insertion in the following week.
Classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 5pm on Friday for insertion in the following week.
Deaths The deadline is 5pm on Friday for insertion in the following week.
BIRTHS

BADHAMS - On December 17 at Romsey, Hampshire, Alan Badham, son of Edward brother to Richard, Edward, late of London.
BEVAN - On December 17th, at Stoddard and Michael, a son of Christopher Bevan.
BRENNAN - On December 19, in Albany New York and Death - a son of Christopher and Timothy Brennan.
GOWDRIDGE - On December 18th at Luton, Bedfordshire, a daughter, Julia Gomersall.
HALL - On December 13th, at the Scottish Hospital, Birmingham, to Lesley and David, a daughter, Heather Elizabeth.
LEWIS - On December 17, at Doncaster, South Yorkshire, a son, Michael Lewis and Timothy - a son of Christopher and Timothy.
LITTLE - On December 16 in Evesham, Warwickshire, Richard - a son of Christopher and Timothy.
PARK - On December 16th, in Helen and John Park, a daughter, Elizabeth.
POLLARD - On December 20, at The Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, to Alan Aspinwall, a daughter, Linda and Alan Pollard.
SCOTT - On December 16, at the Great Grange Hotel, Victoria, France.
TOPPS - On December 17 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Philip and Linda Topps, a daughter, Karen.
WATSON - On December 18th, in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, a son, Alan, a daughter for Edward and Miranda.

BIRTHS

SPEARS - Name: 12th birthday and Sunday in October - Muir, David, Debbie and Niamh.

MARRIAGES

WHITFIELD-KELLY - On Saturday 17 Dec at St. John's Church, Wimborne, Dorset, a service will be held.

BLACKWELL - On Sunday, December 18th, 1983, peacefully at Langham Hospital, London, to Christopher Blackwell, much loved son of Christopher and Christopher Blackwell, his wife, and a devoted son to his parents.

BRAYBROOK - On December 19th, at Peterborough, Horace Keenwood, father of Margaret, Paul, Elizabeth and Christopher. Funeral service at St. Edmund's Church, Peterborough, on Friday, Dec 23rd. Flowers to Mrs. Mary Keenwood.

CHEENEY - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Elsie Josephine, wife of Peter Cheeneys, of Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire. A memorial will be held at the church on Friday, Dec 22nd.

CHOPPER - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, John Cooper, John Cooper, son of Christopher and Christopher Cooper.

DICKINSON - On December 19th, 1983, Alan Cooper, beloved wife of Christopher Cooper, died on Friday, Dec 22nd. Flowers to Mrs. Christopher Cooper.

HAYLES - On December 19th, 1983, Bessie Hayles, wife of Bert Hayles, died on Friday, Dec 22nd. Flowers to Mrs. Bert Hayles.

WATERHOUSE - Thomas Alexander Waterhouse, Thomas Alexander Waterhouse, died there on Friday, Dec 22nd.

The son of the above-mentioned are requested to receive their flowers at the church on Friday, Dec 22nd.

FOSTER - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Mrs. Dorothy Foster, Mrs. Foster, Oxford, dear sister of Sir David Lloyd Evans, former Minister of State, and Sir Frank Foster, former Member of Parliament, died on Friday, Dec 22nd. Flowers to Mr. and Mrs. Foster.

GORDON-RUSSELL - On 17th December, peacefully in an accident, in the early hours of the morning, to Ollie Lane, Altonbury, Bradford. Mrs. Gordon-Russell, wife of Peter and son of Martin and Frances, Holy Family Cemetery, Bradford.

HORNELL - On Monday, 18th December, at home, Francis Hornell, aged 80, much loved husband of Constance, Cramond at Putney Vale Cemetery, London SW15, after a short illness.

HUNTER - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Rev. Dr. Edmund Hunter, Vicar of St. Dominic's Priory Church, NW8, after a long illness. Services at St. Dominic's Church, NW8, on Friday, Dec 22nd, at 11.30 am. Following the service, a reception will be held at the church.

JAMESON - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Mrs. Jameson, wife of Christopher Jameson, of Cheadle, Cheshire, died on Friday, Dec 22nd. Flowers to Christopher Jameson.

KELLY - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Kelly, son of Christopher and Christopher Kelly.

LEWIS - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Lewis, son of Christopher and Christopher Lewis.

MAHON - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Mrs. Mahon, wife of Christopher Mahon, of Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire.

MARSHALL - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Marshall, son of Christopher and Christopher Marshall.

MCNAUL - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher McNaul, son of Christopher and Christopher McNaul.

MONK - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Monk, son of Christopher and Christopher Monk.

ROBERTS - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Roberts, son of Christopher and Christopher Roberts.

WHITEHEAD - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Whitehead, son of Christopher and Christopher Whitehead.

WILSON - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Wilson, son of Christopher and Christopher Wilson.

WILLIAMS - On December 19th, 1983, peacefully, Christopher Williams, son of Christopher and Christopher Williams.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1**ITV AM**

6.25 Good Morning Britain
presented by Nicholas Parsons and John Stapleton. A review of the morning newspapers at 6.25; news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 8.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; reviews of morning newspapers at 7.15 and 7.45; Esther Rantzen's That's Life between 7.30 and 7.45 with a phone-in between 8.30 and 8.40; pop music news from Mike Smith between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.35.

The New Adventures of Flash Gordon, The first of a new series of 12 programmes featuring Flash and his companions, Date Arden and Zarvith. 9.00-9.25 Battle of the Planets (r) 9.45 Blue Peter Special Assignment: A dramatised documentary about Marco Beltrami's life at Versailles (r) 10.30 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (r) 10.55 Gharib Among the items is a review of Muzra talking to her son Rajinder Dhillon of Southwark about the significance of Christmas. 11.20 Emill and the Detectives. Part one of a two-part Walt Disney adaptation of Eric Kastner's classic tale (r) 12.05 Look Back with Noakes. A review of the Go With Noakes series.

News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only); Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes Joe Loss and his Orchestra. 1.45 Hockney Cokey. 2.00 Bank Holiday Fair. A visit to Hampton Court's fair (r).

Film: East Side of Heaven (1939) starring Bing Crosby as a crooning cab-driver who finds an abandoned baby. Directed by David Butler. 3.53 Regional news (not London). Play School, presented by Elizabeth Milbank and Ian Lauchan. 4.20 The Adventures of Buttwinkle and Rocky. Jackanory. Jan Francis with part three of Peter Pan. 4.40 Screen Test: Champion of Champions. The winner and runners-up of the 1982 and 1983 contests in the final programme or the series 5.05 Newsround with Paul McDowell. 5.10 Carr's War. The final episode.

6 Sixty Minutes includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; regional news magazines at 5.55; weather at 5.55; and closing headlines at 6.38.

Hatty. With Rod Hull and Emily, The Only Fools and Horses team and Shakin' Stevens. 5 Film: Something Big (1971) starring Dean Martin, Brian Keith and Honk Blackman. Light-hearted western about a gang leader who ransoms the colonel's wife for a large sum with which he intends to pull off a big bank raid. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen.

7 News with John Humphrys. Q.E.D. Eyewitness Evidence? Fact or Fiction? A follow-up to last week's programme which ended with a staged mugging. Viewers were asked to phone in and state the identity of the mugger. Tonight sees the results of the response (see Choice).

8 Film: The Fog (1978) starring Jamie Lee Curtis. A night of terror awaits the population of Antonio Bay as fog begins to descend. Directed by John Carpenter (first showing on British television).

23 News headlines.

23 Barbara Mandrell with her sisters and guests Bobby Vinton and Andrea Crouch (r).

30 Weather.

SEQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF: 90-92.5; Radio 4: 912kHz/1500m; 92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/205m; VHF 94.3; World Service MF 648kHz/483m.

ITV LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street where the Muppets make learning seem simple.

10.25 Film: Mystery Island (1951) starring Michael Craig, Joan Greenwood and Herbert Lom. An adventurous romp based on a story by Jules Verne. Directed by Cy Endfield.

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family (12.10 Rainbow) (r) 12.30 Look Who's Talking. With Derek Bailey, talking about his life and career, is comedian Charlie Williams.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news from Robin Houston 1.30 Robert Meyer - A Debt Repaid. A documentary celebrating the 104th birthday of one of the world's greatest patrons of music. The narrator is Bernard Levin (r) 2.30 A Country Practice. Tales from a medical practice in the Australian outback. 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 Emu's World at Christmas. Rod Hull and his erratic pet discover a medieval kingdom 4.45 Madabout. One of the many items is a trip to the Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands 5.15 Diff'rent Strokes.

5.00 News 9.00 Themes news.

5.25 Crossroads. Paul Ross opens his mouth and lands himself a shock he did not want.

7.00 Name That Tune. Tom O'Connor presents another in the series of fast moving musical quizzes.

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita Jefferies a little more about why Len was where he was when he died while the pigeon race of the decade ends in controversy when the winning bird crosses the line in unusual circumstances.

8.00 This Is Your Life. Another worthy's emotions will be reduced to jelly by Eamonn Andrews and his big red book.

8.30 Up the Elephant and Round the Castle. Comedy series about the adventures of a cockney boy.

9.00 Chessmash. More mystery for Dr Audley and his team of sleuths when an Oxford professor thinks that the mysterious death of one of his students is the beginning of a communist conspiracy.

10.00 News.

10.15 Film: The Long Riders (1980) starring David Keith and Robert Carradine and Stacy and James Keach. The James brothers and the Youngers decide to go straight - but before they do they think they will pull one more train robbery. Directed by Walter Hill.

12.05 Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning, by Zsa Zsa Gabor. A young bride finds she is unwelcome on her husband's estate (r).

12.35 A Different Christmas. Gillian Reynolds talks to someone who will be enjoying an alternative Christmas to the traditional.

11.45 Closeup.

12.45 News.

12.45 Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning, by Zsa Zsa Gabor. A young bride finds she is unwelcome on her husband's estate (r).

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Rate Bill faces big test in Lords

Continued from page 1
Councils, which represents many such authorities, said that the Bill "threatens even greater interference in the affairs and activities of local authorities than was originally feared."

The Association of County Councils, also led by Conservatives, said: "The case has still not been made for such unprecedented powers." It said that the supposedly objective assessment through which the councils could escape selective capping could be changed.

The Bill gives ministers the power to rewrite, from year to year the vaguely defined criteria on which they will pick councils for capping. It will allow Mr Jenkins to select a council for capping in 1985 if it appears to him that its total expenditure in that year is likely to be excessive having regard to general economic conditions."

Dr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the Environment, pledged yesterday that a Labour government would repeal the legislation if Mr Jenkins managed "by hook or by crook" to get it through Parliament (Our Political Correspondent writes).

He added: "For the first time since 1601, Whitehall will have dictatorial powers over every local authority in the land."

Parliament, page 4
Leading article, page 13

Israeli aircraft watch Arafat armada sail out

Continued from page 1
loyalists before their evacuation (Christopher Walker writes).

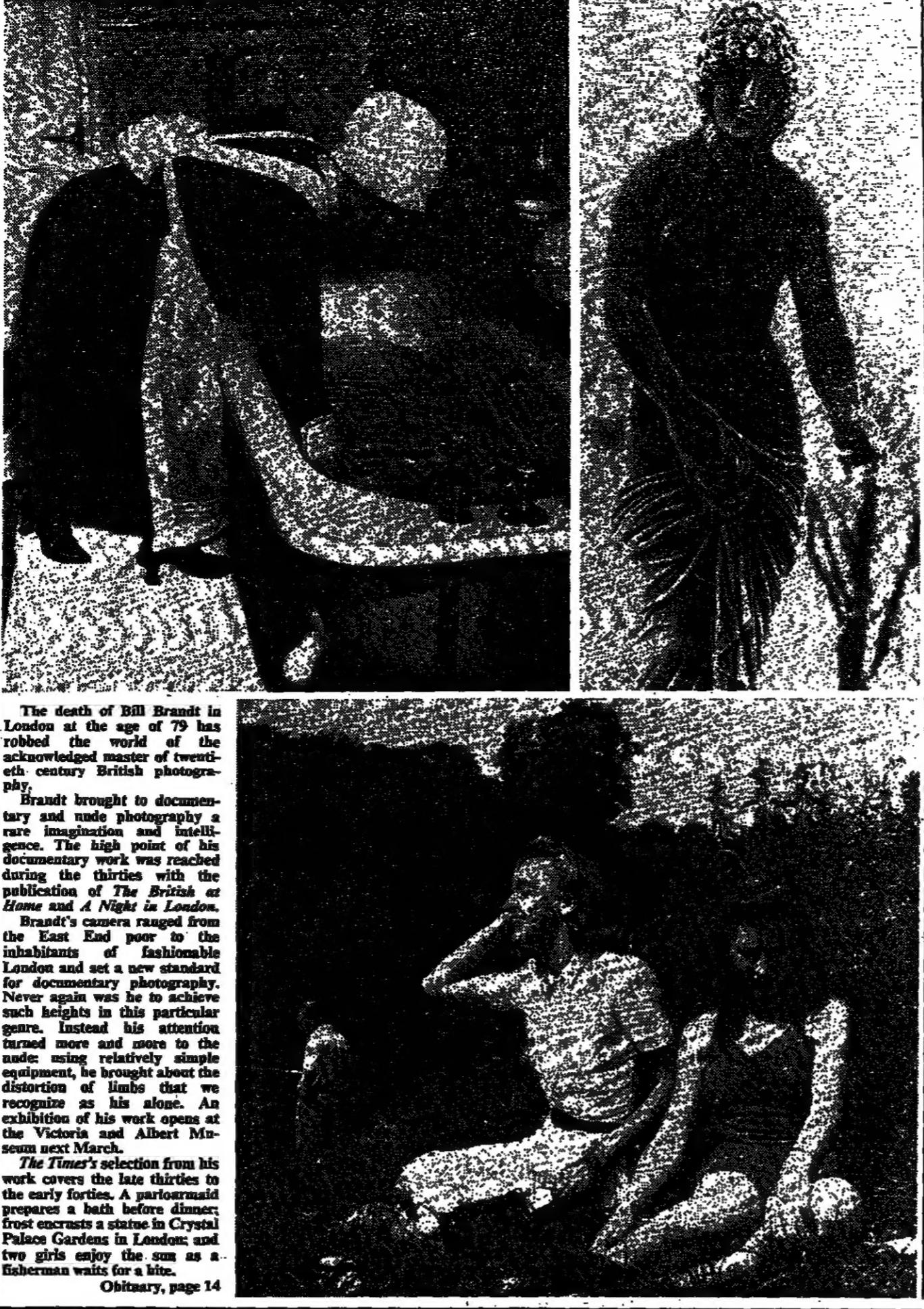
It claimed that, despite US pressure, no formal guarantees of safe passage had been given to either Greece or France.

A senior official told *The Times*: "We are satisfied that by our actions we got over the point that Mr Arafat was leaving by our favour, and not from any form of divine justice or in any legitimate way. We believe that what we did showed up the true nature of the evacuation."

"The purpose of our policy was to demonstrate that the whole question of safe passage for such terrorist is one that is open to discussion at all times. It is not something they were entitled to by right, as they might have believed."

Arafat's Odyssey, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Photographer of rare imagination



The death of Bill Brandt in London at the age of 79 has robbed the world of the acknowledged master of twentieth century British photography.

Brandt brought to documentary and nude photography a rare imagination and intelligence. The high point of his documentary work was reached during the thirties with the publication of *The British at Home and A Night in London*. Brandt's camera ranged from the East End poor to the inhabitants of fashionable London and set a new standard for documentary photography. Never again was he to achieve such heights in this particular genre. Instead his attention turned more and more to the nude; using relatively simple equipment, he brought about the distortion of limbs that we recognize as his alone. An exhibition of his work opens at the Victoria and Albert Museum next March.

The *Times*' selection from his work covers the late thirties to the early forties. A parlourmaid prepares a bath before dinner; frost encrusts a statue in Crystal Palace Gardens in London; and two girls enjoy the sun as a fisherman waits for a bite.

Obituary, page 14

Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

Continued from page 1
demonstrations in the East End of London and in Trafalgar Square, drawing police strength at a time when officers were needed elsewhere.

Scotland Yard said that it recognized the right to free speech but "during these troublesome days it would be helpful if potential demonstrators advised us of their plans".

CND said that the demonstrations were spontaneous after rumours that a cruise missile was due to leave the Greenham Common air base. "Had we known, we might have suggested the demonstrations did not take place."

• The Prime Minister, prompted by a backbench MP, pointed out in the Commons yesterday that money given by Irish Americans to the IRA might have resulted in the death of an American citizen and the injury of others in the Harrods bombing on Saturday (Our Political Editor writes).

She said the Government condemned as strongly as had President Reagan the money going to Noraid, the Irish Northern Aid Committee, which is believed by the Government to be the principal fund-raising body for the IRA in the United States.

Mrs Thatcher said that money for Noraid was given to those who rejected democracy and pursued the ends of violence, death and destruction of innocent people.

Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, had asked her to endorse a similar statement by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, when interviewed on American breakfast television on Monday. Mr Colvin said the tragic death of an American might bring home that money given to Noraid "does not go to help widows and orphans, but to

remembering who he was or what was his speciality".

The real Secretary for Wales, whose name is Mr Edwards, was being sued for libel by the Welsh rate-capping Society, in the form of hundreds of MP's for non-Welsh constituencies, fed the chamber in desperation. That is always what happens when experts on Welsh local government move into the neighbourhood. A forlorn band of Welsh members were left to ponder Welsh rate-capping.

Mr John Jume, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, asked the Prime Minister, asked the Prime Minister, to "dampen the hysteria" about Irish-American support for violence. The vast majority of the 44 million Irish Americans did not support it, and their opposition was forcibly expressed by their leaders.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that the overwhelming majority of American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pressing political ends.

Parliament page 4

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Determined mood by the Welsh

The chief Opposition spokesman on Wales yesterday produced a late, but surely unbeatable entrant for least worrying accusation by a politician in 1983: "This is a black day for local government in Wales."

Buried in all that was sensationally batiche, a announcement of the black for Welsh local government. But that apart, after a while one came to the conclusion that this Mr Jones, whoever may be, was doing rather well.

Perhaps too well. He coming perilously close making Welsh local government excluding a human being peopled by executioners dead in their own services as authoritarians doing flag things with documents. Certainly, he made Welsh much more interesting than Dylan Thomas.

Mr Edwards, the Secretary of State, accused Mr Jones exaggerating.

Exaggerating was brisk day long, with hopes of re-exaggerations by the time is door close at Westminster tomorrow afternoon. Mr Norman Tebbit the Minister of State at Trade and Industry arrived to announce the Britoil had cancelled an order for an oil rig on the Clyde on the reasonable-sounding ground that the shipyard was very late in building it.

The chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, Mr Donald Dewar, perhaps mindful of the standards already set by Wales announced that was all a disgrace and the moreover, it was "lacking in humanity and humanity".

But Wales was in determined mood yesterday. A Welsh member had on the order paper a question asking if the Secretary of State would publish "the number of beds patients and special units expressed as the number of available staff beds and the number of resident patients and as a percentage of their occupancy during special in-patient units or wards in each mental illness hospital and unit in Wales".

In a written reply, Mr Wyn Roberts, of the Welsh Office, struck a blow for us immune rates by responding: "I regret that I am unable to understand the question as posed". The questioner was Mr Dafydd Thomas, the Welsh Nationalist member for what was described as "Merionnydd Nant Conwy". I regret that I am unable to understand the constituency as posed.

Parliament page 4

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Annual Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, 6.55.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the London Fire Brigade's Annual Service of Carols, Central Hall, Westminster.

Last chance to see

Cecil Maguire, the Bell Gallery, 13 Adelaide Park, Malone Road, Belfast 9; Mon to Fri 9 to 5 (ends today).

Carols concert by Cynthia Glover.

Obituary, page 14

Christmas exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and ceramics, Festival Gallery, Pierrepont Place, Bath, Tues to Sat 11-5, closed Sun and Mon.

Carol Services

Cathedral School Carol Services, Lincoln Minster, 2.30.

Carols by candlelight by the City of Bath Bach Choir Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Concert of Christmas music by the West Riding Singers, Holy Trinity Parish Church, Cookridge, Leeds, 7.45.

Carols concert by Cynthia Glover.

(soprano), Watford Town Hall, Watford, 7.30.

BBC Wales Festival of Nine Lessons' and Carols, St Luke's Church, Cardiff, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Ben Nicholson: The Years of Experiment 1919-1939; City Mu-

seum & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sunday (ends Jan 8).

Peals from a Lotus exotic artifacts from India, Cliffe Castle, Spring Gardens Lane, Keighley, 10am to Sun 10-6 (closed Mon, except Bank Hols) ends July 1984.

Victorian Paintings Workshop; Crafts for Christmas, Leicester Guild of Craftsmen, both exhibitions at Gloucester, Gloucester Art Collection, 26 New Walk, Worcester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Friday (Victorian paintings end Jan 2, Crafts, Dec 28).

Paintings, Prints and Drawings by David Hack, Sarah James, Nicholas Sheath and Nigel Tomlinson, Exhibition Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 13).

Christmas exhibition of paintings by Falmouth Schoolchildren, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 1 to 2 and 2 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun and 22 to 2 January inclusive (ends Jan 6).

Information supplied by AA.

Anniversaries

Births: Leopold von Raabe, author of the *History of the Papacy* and considered the father of German history, Berlin, Germany, 1793; Sir Joseph Whitworth, British mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister, 1868-74, London, 1804; Mihály Balázskev composer (New Style Jan 2), Nijni Novgorod, Russia; Deiborion, Cetraldo, Italy, 1373; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, author of *The Great Gatsby*, Hollywood, 1940.

Deaths: Léopold von Raabe,

author of the *History of the Papacy* and considered the father of German history, Berlin, Germany, 1793; Sir Joseph Whitworth, British mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister, 1868-74, London, 1804; Mihály Balázskev composer (New Style Jan 2), Nijni Novgorod, Russia; Deiborion, Cetraldo, Italy, 1373; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, author of *The Great Gatsby*, Hollywood, 1940.

Information supplied by AA.

Christmas cash

Outside dispensing machines will be open at most banks which have the facility over the Christmas and New Year periods. There are now twice as many dispensers as there were a year or so ago so if one is not working, try another. This is not necessarily the case, however, as some banks have shared arrangements.

Solutions to Puzzle No 16,315

IN THE GREENING

COMET MAC

MEANT TO STIR

WHEN LOVE'S

TRUE LOVE

SHAKESPEARE

BY FRANCILLARY

ANDERSON BOYDIE

ACROSS

1 They take off and stop raids (9)

6 Such amused stock auditor takes for large company (5)

9 Sudden collapse of French import (7)

10 Onset of egotitarianism possibly limits this (7)

11 Pervasive atmosphere of a foreign capital (5)

12 For a skilful player, I act doubly badly with 27 (9)

14 Small thing I must have in the other case (3)

15 Notable split (11)

17 Sea-going crew seen on TV (7,4)

19 Strange what follows and decides this (3)

20 Cheats very successful in the long run (9)

22 Old man of Paris (5)

24 Russian beauty put in the shade (7)

26 Science producing sort of bomb in any case (7)

27 Lord whose opponents shall never meet (5)

28 It can give an edge to the news broadcast (9)

29 A super act 150 contrived (11)

DOWN

1 Turn up to help with work, showing where speakers stand (5)

2 One in a cage - almost worth getting birdseed plant (7)

3 Ordering meat gin at police department? Just the reverse (9)

4 A super act 150 contrived (11)

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

First novels of year

The Literary Editor's selection of first novels of the year:

Giving Evidence, by Clive James (Cape, £7.95)

Flying to Nowhere, by John Fuller (Salander, £5)

Holy Pictures, by Clare Boylan (Harrington, £7.95)

Hunt for the Autumn Clown, by M. S. Power (Chatto & Windus, £5.50)

Jumping the Gun, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £7.95)

Land of the Living, by Robert Joy (Penguin, £3.95)

Separate Tracks, by Jane Royden (Faber, £7.95)

The Wolf, by Max Davidson (Quartet, £7.95)

PH

London and South East: A249: Auto signals on Maidstone/Sittingbourne road, from M2 bridge to Sittingbourne, no carriageway, no diversions; A12: Single lane in opposite hours between Whelbone Lane, Dagenham and Mawney Road, Roman Road/A4088: Contraflow between Blackbird Lane and Ness Lane; one lane in each direction.

Midlands: A1: Contraflow southbound north of Normans Cross, Cambridge, 10.30am to 4pm, 1.30pm to 5pm, 6pm to 9pm, 10pm to 11pm.

North: A61: Resurfacing work along Barnsley Road, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. A688: Reconstruction at Bonemill Bar, Bishop Auckland. A74: Single lane traffic and contraflow on Moss Bank viaduct between Carlisle and Kendal.

Scotland: A88: All southbound and northbound traffic over 300m diverted north of Delkith; northbound traffic reduced to a single lane.

A92: Single-lane traffic, delays at peak periods in Central Esplanade, Kirkcaldy. A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles.

Information supplied by AA.